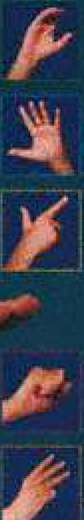
The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary

Richard A. Tennant
Marianne Gluszak Brown

- Illustrations of More Than 1,900 Signs Arranged by Shape for Easy Identification
- Introduction to Deaf Culture and ASL Structure
- Complete Index of English Vocabulary for All Signs



Illustrated by Valerie Nelson-Metlay

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This work is dedicated to those who struggle to learn to communicate with others, and to those teachers who devote themselves to bringing these desires to fruition.

R. T.

To the Deaf community that has nurtured me since birth, and to all who seek to understand the beauty of American Sign Language.

M. G. B.

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Preface

The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary departs from most sign language dictionaries in that it is organized by the various shapes of the hands used to form signs rather than in English alphabetical word order. This unique format allows users to search for a sign that they recognize but whose meaning they have forgotten or for the meaning of a new sign they have seen for the very first time.

The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary will be especially helpful to new sign language students, and it will be a handy reference for people who know some signs but want to increase their vocabulary. The dictionary will also be valuable to Deaf people who want to know the various English words that are used to signify the same concept conveyed in a particular sign. Finally, the Index of English Glosses provides an English to American Sign Language (ASL) listing of all the signs in the book so that new signers can look up a word in English to learn the conceptually correct sign to use to express a specific idea. This dual-language feature enables users to go from ASL to English or English to ASL easily and quickly.

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Introduction

American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual/gestural language. It is a *natural* language, meaning that it has developed naturally over time by its users, Deaf people. ASL has all of the features of any language; that is, it is a rule-governed system using symbols to represent meaning. In ASL, the symbols are specific hand movements and configurations that are modified by facial expressions to convey meaning. These gestures or symbols are called *signs.*

Contrary to common belief, ASL is not derived from any spoken language, nor is it a visual code representing English. It is a unique and distinct language, one that does not depend on speech or sound. ASL has its own grammar, sentence construction, idiomatic usage, slang, style, and regional variations—the characteristics that define any language.

American Sign Language is the shared language that unites Deaf people in what is known as the Deaf community. *Deaf* with a capital *D* is used in publications to recognize the cultural and linguistic affiliation of Deaf people who are members of the Deaf community, whereas *deaf* with a lowercase *d* is used to refer to deaf people who do not embrace ASL or involve themselves with the values, organizations, and events that are heralded by signing Deaf people. The Deaf community is not bound by geographic borders, but rather comprises those people who elect to become members by using ASL as their preferred mode of communication and by accepting the cultural identity of Deaf people. It is difficult to give an accurate number of how many people are in the Deaf community because census takers typically lump together all people who have a hearing loss. Many researchers believe that approximately 10 percent of the general population has some degree of hearing loss and that 1 percent of that number represents Deaf people, for a total of about half a million people in the Deaf community.

The people most likely to be native users of ASL are those who have Deaf parents. People who lose their hearing as infants, before they begin to speak, may become native signers if they are exposed to ASL at an early age. These people, who are unable to hear English and learn it naturally, must be taught English through formal means. Hearing children of Deaf parents also acquire ASL as a first language. However, their enculturation tends to cross the cultures of the Deaf and hearing worlds. These children, like their Deaf counterparts, are often referred to as bicultural and bilingual.

History of Sign Language in America

Not much is known about deaf people who came to America before the beginning of the nineteenth century, although evidence suggests that they brought the sign languages of their native countries with them. Because there were no schools specifically for them and traveling was difficult, deaf people probably had very little contact with one another.

This situation began to change in the early 1800s when Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, a Connecticut clergyman, embarked on a voyage abroad at the request of a Hartford physician who had a deaf daughter. Gallaudet had heard that successful methods of educating deaf children were being used in Europe, and he was eager to learn these teaching methods and bring them back to America so that he could open a school for children who were deaf. After a lukewarm welcome by the administrators of the school for the deaf in England, Gallaudet moved on to the Royal Institution for the Deaf in Paris, where he was well received. He studied French signs and methods of teaching deaf children using sign language. When Gallaudet was ready to return to Hartford, he contracted with Laurent Clerc, a graduate of the Royal Institution and one of the best teachers at the school in Paris, to return with him to America. Clerc played an important role in the emergence of early versions of ASL by bringing French Sign Language to the United States to intermingle with existing sign languages.

Gallaudet and Clerc established the first permanent school for deaf children in the United States. The school opened in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1817. This event is viewed as a milestone for the Deaf community in that it brought large numbers of Deaf people together for the first time. The school became a forum for sharing ideas, experiences, beliefs, and values unique to Deaf life. The founding of this school helped to create, develop, and nurture an enduring sense of community—the Deaf community.

American Sign Language, formed of a fusion between sign languages already in existence (including the newly imported French Sign Language), did what most languages do: it evolved. It was flexible enough to be able to respond to the ever-changing American society, and today it has evolved into one of the richest sign languages in the world. We are indebted to Gallaudet, to early Deaf pioneers, to the French for the head start they gave us, and for the conditions here in the United States that have nurtured ASL.

Signs—The Vocabulary of American Sign Language

A sign is a gesture or movement that conveys a concept. Each sign is made with a specific hand configuration or handshape, placed at various locations on or near the signer's body. If the handshape, movement, or location changes, the meaning of the sign also changes. Signs are the basic semantic units of sign languages, much as words are the basic semantic units of spoken languages.

The signs of ASL are formed with one hand or two hands. When a sign is formed using only one hand, the hand used is determined by the signer's natural dominance. The same is true for two-hand signs in which only one hand moves. The hand that moves is called the *dominant* hand, while the other hand is called the *passive* hand. The illustrations in this dictionary show models with a right-hand dominance.

Two-hand signs can be produced in one of three ways: (1) both hands form identical handshapes and both hands move; (2) both hands form identical handshapes but only the dominant hand moves; or (3) the hands form

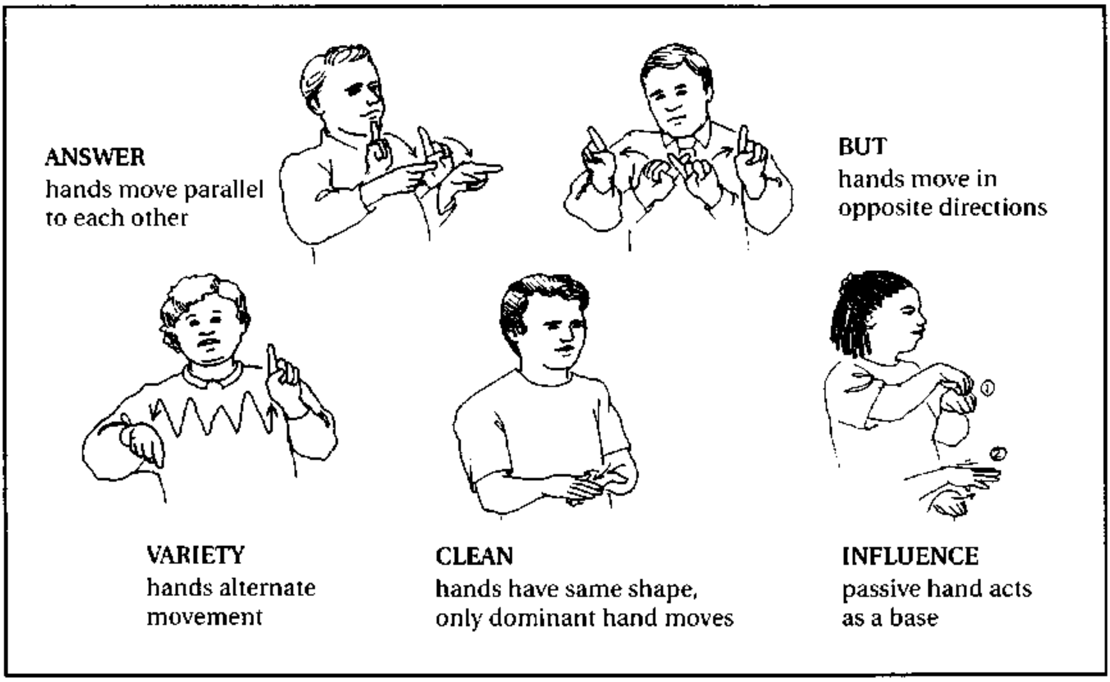

Figure 1. Examples of how two-hand signs can be formed.

different handshapes and only the dominant hand moves, while the passive hand is restricted to a limited set of handshapes (see figure 1).

When both hands move, a *symmetry* condition exists, which means that the handshapes and movements must be identical. These movements may be made either in unison or alternatingly. In addition, when the hands move in unison the movement can be parallel or in opposite directions. For two-hand signs in which the handshapes are not identical, a *dominance* condition exists in that the passive hand remains static while the dominant hand executes the sign. The handshape of the dominant hand is more significant than the shape of the passive hand. The dominant hand carries the essential information whereas the other hand acts primarily as a base and, as such, is usually stationary and limited in the handshapes that it can have. The dominant hand can display any of approximately 150 different handshapes, but the passive hand can assume only about seven handshapes. Because the passive hand plays a lesser role, that hand is often less carefully articulated.

stubborn
Handshape: Open B > Bent B
Orientation: palm out
Location: thumb on right temple
Movement: bend fingers down sharply
Nonmanual signal: eyebrows knit, frown

Figure 2. All sign descriptions include the five parameters of a sign.

Native signers are naturally consistent in their adherence to the rules regarding symmetry and dominance. Someone who does not observe these rules is awkward to watch, particularly if the person alternatingly uses the left and the right hand for one-hand signs.

Parameters of a Sign

Every sign is a composite of basic components or *parameters*. The parameters of a sign are handshape, palm orientation, location, movement, and nonmanual features or signals. If one of these five parameters changes, a completely different sign may be formed. You will notice that the sign descriptions written for each sign illustration in this dictionary include each of these parameters (see figure 2).

Handshape

The handshape is probably the most apparent parameter of a sign. It is the configuration the hand assumes when beginning to make a sign. The most frequently used handshapes are the letters of the American Manual Alphabet and the manual numbers (see pages 20 and 26); however, linguists have identified a large number of discrete handshapes. In order to make this book as accessible as possible, the signs have been organized using forty of the possible handshapes. Handshapes that are quite similar to each other (for example, K and P) have been arbitrarily grouped under one of these handshapes.

Palm Orientation

The next parameter of a sign is its orientation, or the direction in which the hand is turned. The direction that the palm of the hand faces (up, down, left, or right) is a useful way of describing the orientation because once the palm is described, the direction of the fingers and back of the hand is obvious.

Location

Signs are formed on or near only certain areas of the body. Approximately 75 percent of all signs are formed in the head and neck area because there they can be seen more easily. For the same reason, over time, signs that used to be formed near the waist or elbows have moved up and in toward the chest. The location of a sign frequently contributes to its meaning. For example, many signs that denote feelings are formed near the heart, whereas signs related to cognitive concepts are formed near the head.

Movement

Much of the meaning of signs may be expressed through movement. The direction in which a sign moves may indicate the doer or recipient of the action. For example, if the sign HELP[1] moves from the signer toward another person, help is offered to that person. If the sign moves in toward the signer, another person might be helping the signer. The repetition of the movement may indicate several things—the frequency of an action, the plurality of a noun, or the distinction between a noun and a verb. The size of the movement may indicate volume or size. And the speed or vigor of the movement combined with the appropriate nonmanual signals may convey many adverbial aspects of what is being expressed. Generally, the signs in this book show basic movements to which a skilled signer may add the semantic variations.

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[1] ASL signs are indicated by using small capital letters for the English glosses of root signs.

Nonmanual Signals

If you have executed each of the first four parameters, you can succeed in correctly making a sign. However, being a good signer involves more than just executing signs correctly. In spoken languages, additional semantic information is carried through one's tone of voice. In sign language, additional semantic information is carried through one's body and facial expressions. This nonmanual parameter occurs at the same time that the sign is being executed to contribute to its meaning. The signed message is quite different if you shake your head no or nod your head yes while signing HAPPY. When one signs using all of the parameters including the nonmanual parameter, there is a complete thought—a sentence. Without the nonmanual parameter, there is merely a string of signs.

Some attempt has been made in this book to illustrate or to describe the nonmanual parameter of each sign, although often the nonmanual signals are dictated by the context in which the sign is used. Keep in mind that while the dictionary offers an extensive inventory of "root" signs, the nonmanual signals as well as the signs themselves can be inflected and combined in myriad ways, producing more variations than can be shown in a printed dictionary. Because sign language is three-dimensional, and because grammatical inflections and nonmanual signals are expressed simultaneously with the signs, it is difficult to present ASL in the two-dimensional medium of a book. It is important that you take a sign class to become aware of the nuances of this beautiful language. And to supplement that instruction, you should interact with the Deaf community to acquire a deeper appreciation of the language in the context of its people and their culture.

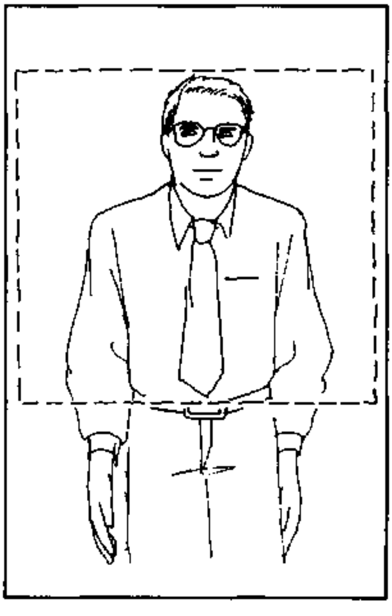
Figure 3. The signing space

Signing Space

When Deaf people sign, they use a defined space that approximates a rectangle. This rectangle starts at waist height, extends to slightly above one's head, reaches out no more than a foot in front of the body, and rarely extends more than a foot left or right beyond the torso (see figure 3). This area provides for optimum viewing of signs as they are formed. The signing space becomes proportionately larger and the signs may be exaggerated when signing to

large audiences. Likewise, the signing space may become more confined for purposes of more rapid signing or in order to be secretive.

Grammatical Features

American Sign Language, like all languages, has definite rules of grammar. These rules specify how signs can be used and combined in order to allow for communication. Some of the basic features are discussed here as an introduction to the sophistication and versatility of ASL as a language.

Verb Types

Most verbs are explicitly signed along with the subject and object of the sentence. These *regular* verbs cannot take advantage of variable movement and space to create modifications on the root sign. However, some verbs can use space to incorporate both the subject and object of the sentence in the verb sign itself. These *directional* verbs use movement to or from the signer to express who or what gives or receives the action. Examples of directional verbs are GIVE, INFORM, DEFEND, and BORROW. Directional verbs are very efficient since an entire sentence is expressed with the use of one sign (see figure 4). With some directional verbs, the palm orientation may reverse. For example, for the sign PITY, the palm faces in toward the body when signing YOU-PITY-ME and faces out toward the referent when signing I-PITY-YOU.

Locational verbs are signed on or near the area of the body to which the action refers. Signing HURT near the mouth indicates a toothache; near the head, a headache; and so on. Similarly, signing SURGERY near the appendix versus signing it near the heart gives clear information about what kind of surgery was performed.

ASL: I-GIVE-YOU
English: I give it to you.

ASL: YOU-GIVE-ME
English: You give it to me.

Figure 4. Directional verbs allow the signer to incorporate the subject and object of the sentence into the verb.

Noun/Verb Pairs

Signs for related ASL nouns and verbs (i.e., are based on the same concept) are formed in very similar ways. In a two-dimensional illustration, the signs may actually

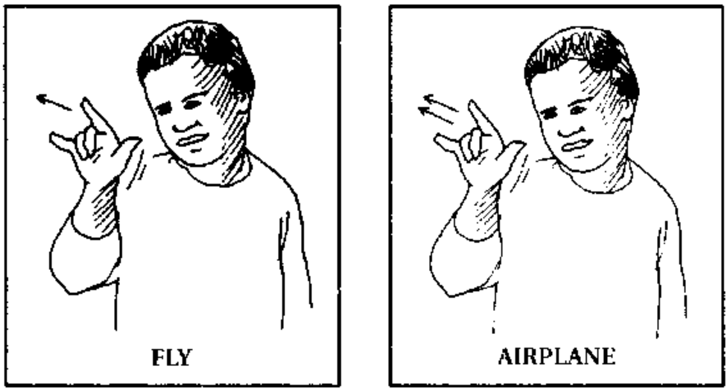

Figure 5. The only difference between some noun and verb signs is indicated in the movement.

look identical because the difference in movements cannot be shown easily. Typically the verb forms have a single large movement, whereas their noun counterparts are often signed smaller and with a double movement (see figure 5). Some examples of ASL noun/verb pairs are AIRPLANE and FLY, CHAIR and SIT, and FOOD and EAT.

In this dictionary, you may notice that only the noun or only the verb form of a sign is illustrated. The difference between the two forms is indicated by the notation *SM* (single movement) or *DM* (double movement) after the English entry for the sign. It is up to you, the user, to remember that the single movement, typically used for verbs, is larger than the double movement, which is usually several small quick movements. Because there are many noun/verb pairs in ASL, it would have been repetitive to illustrate each noun and verb since in the illustration they would look identical except for the arrow.

Agent Markers

The *agent marker* is a sign added to a root sign to indicate that one is referring to a person (see figure 6). The agent marker is referred to as the *-er* sign, and it often marks the distinction between a noun and a verb (for example, TEACH + agent marker =TEACHER). It also conveys the same idea as the inflections *-an*, *-ist*, *-ent*, and *-or* in

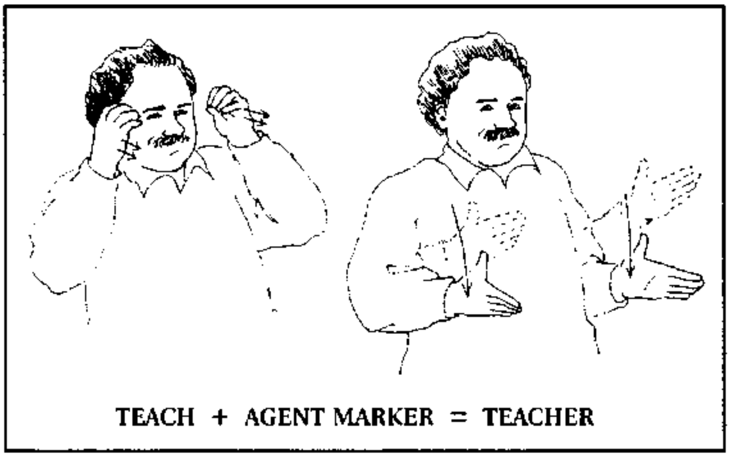

Figure 6. The agent marker is added to a noun sign to indicate a person. This allows the signer to specify an occupation or nationality.

English (for example, STUDY + agent marker = STUDENT; POLITICS + agent marker = POLITICIAN).

Plurals

There are several ways to show the plurality of people and objects. One of the most common techniques is to repeat the noun sign a number of times. Signs that are made in space off the body are likely candidates for this way of making the sign plural. Sometimes the sign will be moved slightly to the right while it is being repeated.

ASL singular: BOOK I HAVE.
English: I have a book.

ASL plural: BOOK, BOOK I HAVE.
English: I have some books.

Some signs cannot be pluralized by repeating the sign. In such cases, there are several other ways to express plurals, including adding a plural pronoun, a number, or a quantifying sign (for example, MANY) to the noun sign.

ASL singular: MAN I SEE.
English: I see a man.

Pronoun

ASL plural: MAN *THEY* I SEE.
English: I see some men.

Number

ASL plural: MAN *THREE* I SEE.
English: I see three men.

Quantifier

ASL plural: MAN *SEVERAL* I SEE.
English: I see several men.

Comparatives

ASL has two methods of comparing two persons, places, things, or ideas. One method makes use of space. When discussing the first item being compared, the signer shifts the shoulders toward the right, looks in

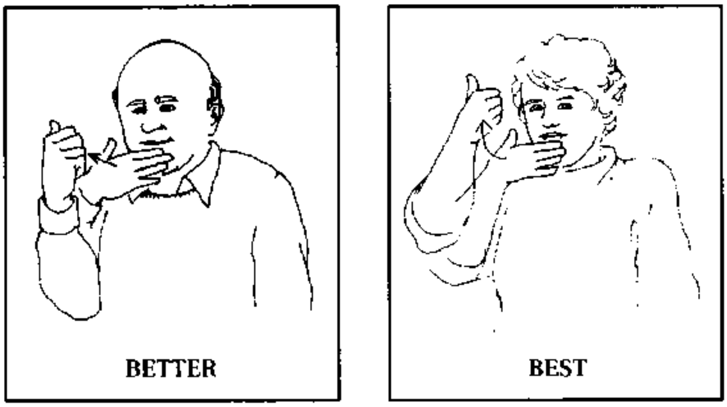

Figure 7. The difference between the comparative and superlative form can be shown in the degree of movement.

that direction, and signs everything related to that item on that side of the body. Then when discussing the second item, the signer shifts left, looks left, and signs toward the left for the other item. This shifting continues throughout the conversation as the signer refers to either item. An example of this method would be as follows:

ASL: CANDY (shift body right), ICE CREAM (shift body left), ME LIKE BOTH (body center).

English: I like both candy and ice cream!

The second way of comparing items is to add an inflection to the root adjective describing the two items. The inflection sign for the comparative form (*-er*) is made by jerking the thumb of the Open A hand upward a short distance; the superlative form (*-est*) is made by a larger movement upward (see figure 7). These movements are accompanied by appropriate facial expressions, and they can be exaggerated to show just how much difference is indicated in the comparison.

Variation in Sign Language

Language is the creation of the community of people who use it and shape it. Yet, subgroups exist within any community. Factors such as gender, geography, race, socioeconomic background, level of education, and age, play a role in creating language variations. These kinds of variations do not prevent speakers or signers of different backgrounds from being able to converse with one another, rather they identify certain characteristics about the individuals. For instance, a particular sign may reveal which school for the deaf the person attended. The manner of signing or the pace of signing may indicate the region someone comes from—the Midwest, Southeast, and so on.

Changes in Signs

Over time and through use, signs change. Some of the changes are a result of the personal and practical needs of the current users. After all, a language must possess the flexibility and creativity necessary to express new ideas, inventions, and events. For example, ASL has signs for *microwave* as well as adaptations of the old signs TELEPHONE and WASH-CLOTHES to reflect modern appliances. Other changes have occurred to make signs easier to produce or recognize. One such change is that signs now are produced in a smaller space closer to the center of the body than years ago. SUPPORT and HELP are examples of signs that have moved from being formed on the arm to being formed on the hand held in front of the chest.

Still other changes are due to the trend to use one-hand signs when there is an identical two-hand version. This is particularly true of *iconic* signs (signs that visually resemble the concept they represent) that used to require both hands, but now require only one hand; for example, COW, DEVIL, or CAT (see figure 8). Following the pattern of all languages, ASL is evolving to allow quick, easy, and concise communication.

Many times people prefer to use one-hand signs for conversational purposes because it frees the signer to use the passive hand for another activity like holding a drink or a baby. In two-hand signs where there is a dominance condition, the passive hand is not typically dropped, though it can be if the signer's left hand is occupied.

In this dictionary, not all one-hand and two-hand variations are illustrated. The book would have become too unwieldy if all possible permutations had been included.

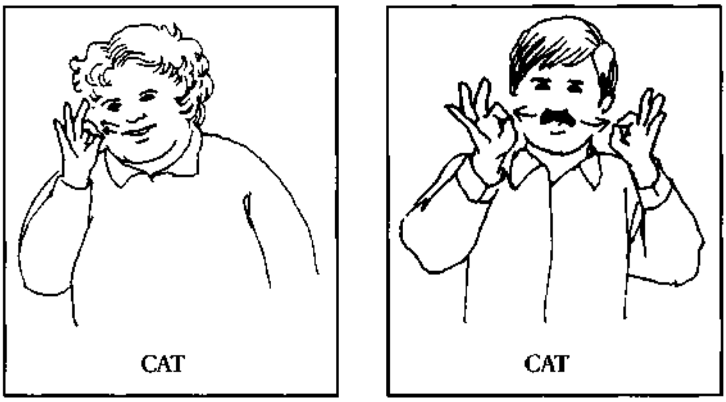

Figure 8. One of the changes ASL has undergone is a preference for one-hand over two-hand signs.

Fingerspelling

The American Manual Alphabet has a handshape to represent each letter of the English alphabet (see figure 9). *Fingerspelling* uses the manual alphabet to provide a visual representation of English words. Because fingerspelling is derived from English, its role in ASL is generally limited to proper names of people and places, brand names, and titles. Technical terms are fingerspelled only if no sign currently exists and the English term is important to know. However, a combination of signs may be enough to carry the concept until a more efficient sign is created by the Deaf community.

The following list describes how to fingerspell properly. When following the techniques on the list, keep in mind that fingerspelling should feel comfortable. Take your time, perhaps practice in front of a mirror to view both the expressive and receptive perspectives simultaneously, and above all—relax.

1. Raise the dominant hand so that the elbow is about waist high.

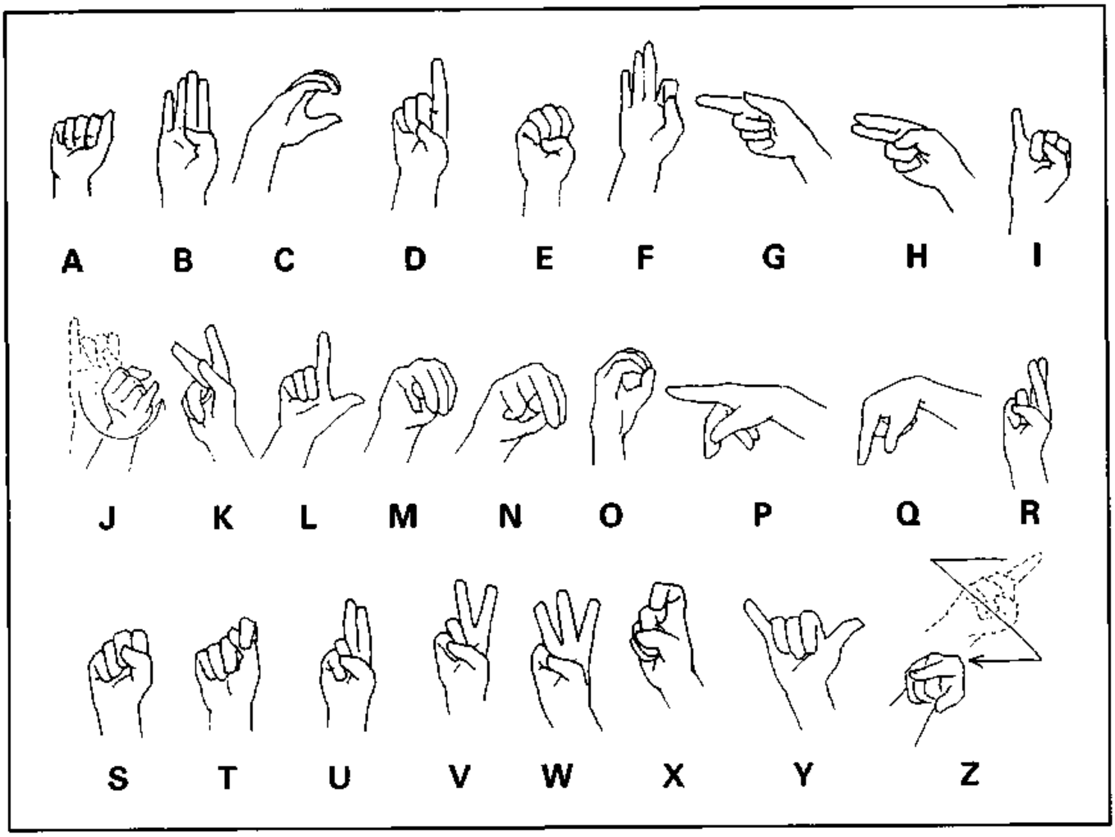

Figure 9. The American Manual Alphabet

2. The palm should face forward and slightly toward the left (except for letters G and H, where the palm faces the body).

3. The hand should be approximately eight to ten inches in front of the chest.

4. The hand moves slightly toward the right while spelling.

5. Spelling should be rhythmic. The focus should not be on the individual letters.

6. Do not bounce the elbow or twist the wrist.

7. Hold the last letter of a word for an extra beat before spelling the next.

Reading fingerspelling seems to be more difficult for learners to master than doing the fingerspelling. Historically, the emphasis in instruction has been on expressing rather than receiving. This leaves many students without concrete advice on developing and maintaining good receptive skills.

Think about good readers. Readers do not read text letter by letter! Readers see whole words and the configuration of words or phrases. In addition, they use context. The principles of learning how to read text apply to reading fingerspelling as well. Don't look for individual letters when someone is fingerspelling, rather look for clues to help you make an educated guess.

Here is a list of techniques that may help you improve your receptive skills.

1. Maintain eye contact. Resist the temptation to look at the signer's hand.

2. Use clues such as the length of a word, its position in the sentence, the configuration of the word, easily recognized letters, and context.

3. Sometimes a phonetic approach is useful.

Below are some exercises that may help either to break bad reading habits or prevent any from developing.

1. Starting with three-letter words, say the word and spell it simultaneously. Then try progressively harder words, again making sure to begin and end vocalization and spelling at the same time.

2. With a partner, tell each other stories with a lot of contextual clues. For instance, talk about your experience at a pet shop trying to choose a dog, and be sure your partner understands the topic before moving on with the story. Narrow the field to help your partner hone in on the kinds of words that are likely to appear in your story. For example, give plenty of clues about the appearance and behavior of the dog's breed before spelling it. Fingerspell the type (for example, collie), at a moderate to fast clip. If your partner misses the word you might want to give more clues before spelling it again.

Do not fingerspell the words slowly under any circumstances. Encourage your partner to see the whole word by asking her to guess. Remember, it is very important that you not let your partner look at your hand while you spell. Doing this kind of exercise routinely will help you build confidence in your ability to successfully read fingerspelled words. Remember, often there are a lot of clues to aid in making intelligent guesses. This is what Deaf people have learned to do. You can do it too!

Fingerspelled Loan Signs

Borrowing from both ASL and English, fingerspelled *loan* signs are a combination of English letters and ASL movements. For example, although there are several signs in ASL for *dog*, the loan sign #DOG[2] is a D handshape twisting into the G handshape, omitting the letter *o*. The sign itself does not appear as ordinary fingerspelling; it has taken on a unique character of its own, heavily defined by its movement and use of space. Loan signs begin as fingerspelled English words, and through repeated usage over time they change so that they look more like ASL signs. Fingerspelled loan signs tend to keep the first and last letter of the word and delete the medial letters. Some examples of loan signs are #JOB, #WHAT, and #BACK. Many fingerspelled loan signs only have two letters that are either an abbreviation of the English word or the whole word. Some examples of two-letter loan signs are #HA, #NG (for "no good"), #OK, and #NO.

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[2] The # symbol is used to show the difference between a fingerspelled loan sign and a regular sign. The fingerspelled word is written with hyphens between the letters (ex., D-O-G).

Conclusion

All living human languages, as we have said, are constantly changing, and ASL is no exception. In this dictionary, we offer a description of ASL as it now exists. Loan words to describe new processes and technologies, borrowed terms from sign languages elsewhere in the world, and the inventiveness of its native speakers will doubtless alter and enrich ASL in the coming years, and we look forward to keeping up with that growth.

How to Use This Dictionary

When studying a foreign language, it is usually necessary to acquire a two-way dictionary. To study German, for example, you would want to have an English–German, German–English dictionary close at hand. The primary purpose of *The ASL Handshape Dictionary* is to provide sign language students with the ASL equivalent of a two-way dictionary. The signs are arranged by the shape the hand assumes when beginning to make a sign. This allows students to locate a sign they know, or have just seen, to find out its meaning. At the same time the book offers students, through its comprehensive index of English glosses, the means for locating a sign that is needed to express an English concept.

If a sign is a symbol that represents a concept, then what is the best way to convey a translation of that concept? The concept could be illustrated, but many concepts are abstract and difficult to convey in a picture. Thus, in most sign language dictionaries, English words, or *glosses,* appear with each sign illustration as an attempt to translate the meaning of the sign. Most of the sign illustrations in this dictionary include more than one English gloss. These English words may not represent all possible instances in which the sign may be used. Sometimes remarks or parts of speech are given in parentheses with an English gloss to specify the meaning or appropriate use of the sign. Sometimes such limits for using a sign can be derived by looking at the other glosses in the list. For example, by examining the glosses for the sign DRUM, you would see that you cannot appropriately use that sign to mean "drumming up business" because the other gloss with the illustration is "play drums." This makes it clear that the sign is intended to convey the concept of a musical instrument. Remarks accompanying the sign description may also be of help in choosing an appropriate gloss for the context you are trying to convey.

In many sign language dictionaries the sign illustrations are arranged in the alphabetical order of their English glosses or meanings. In such an alphabetical arrangement there is no method of locating a sign that one remembers or observes in order to discover its meaning. This dictionary presents signs in a logical order, by handshape, so that a known or observed sign can be quickly located without reference to an English word or gloss.

A second advantage of this dictionary's arrangement is that teachers of sign language can find groups of signs that use the same initial handshape displayed in one place. The convenience of these handshape categories enables a sign language teacher to present signs in a unique and logical organization. It also offers students a helpful memory device.

A third advantage of this dictionary is its generous array of glosses available to assist Deaf people who seek to increase their English vocabulary. When looking up signs whose concepts are already familiar to them, Deaf people may find among the glosses other English words that can be used to represent the signed concept.

General Arrangement of the Dictionary

This dictionary is divided into three major sections, each with a specific purpose. The first section contains illustrations of one-hand signs and their English glosses. The signs are arranged in order of the initial handshape that is used in producing the sign. The second section contains the two-hand signs and their English glosses, and once again, the signs are arranged in order of the initial handshape. Each illustration in both of these sections is accompanied by its equivalent English glosses (meanings) and a sign description. Each description includes the handshape, palm orientation, location, movement, and when appropriate, nonmanual signals. Notes are included with some descriptions to give suggestions as to the sign's use, alternate variations, or preferred signs.

Most of the illustrations include arrows that indicate how the hands move. A double-headed arrow or a double arrow is used when the movement is repeated. Many signs move from an initial position to a final position. In this dictionary, the first position is sometimes represented by dotted hands and the final position by solid hands. When signs have two distinct parts, as in compound signs, the two positions are numbered to show the sequence of production.

As we mentioned in an earlier section, an *agent marker* is an inflection added to a root sign to indicate that a sign refers to a person. In this dictionary, the signs that can be formed with an agent marker do not have separate entries. Instead, they are listed in italics within parentheses after the glosses for the root sign to indicate that the agent marker must be added to form that inflected sign. They are also listed in the index of English glosses.

The final section of this book looks like an index; it is an alphabetical listing of the English glosses encountered in the previous sections. Each entry in the listing directs the user to the page where the illustration for that word appears. By using this index, the user can quickly find the illustration needed to translate the English word or concept into sign.

Organization of the Handshape Sections

American Sign Language, unlike many spoken languages, does not have a written form. A sign conveys a concept, not an English word, and the production of a sign involves five parameters that need to be described: the handshape, the palm orientation, the location, the movement, and the nonmanual signals. The signs in a dictionary have to be ordered by one of these components so they can be easily located.

As we have said, the primary order of the signs in this dictionary is the initial handshape that the hands assume when beginning to execute the sign. The signs are categorized under forty handshapes. Most of the handshapes are taken from the American Manual Alphabet (see figure 9 on p. 20); some are modifications of these handshapes (for example, Bent B, Flattened O). A few handshapes are taken from the number signs (see figure 10). In addition to the handshapes from the American Manual Alphabet and numbers, we selected L-I and 1-I as symbols to represent the handshapes combining L and I as in the sign I-LOVE-YOU, and 1 and I as in the handshape used for the sign MOCK.

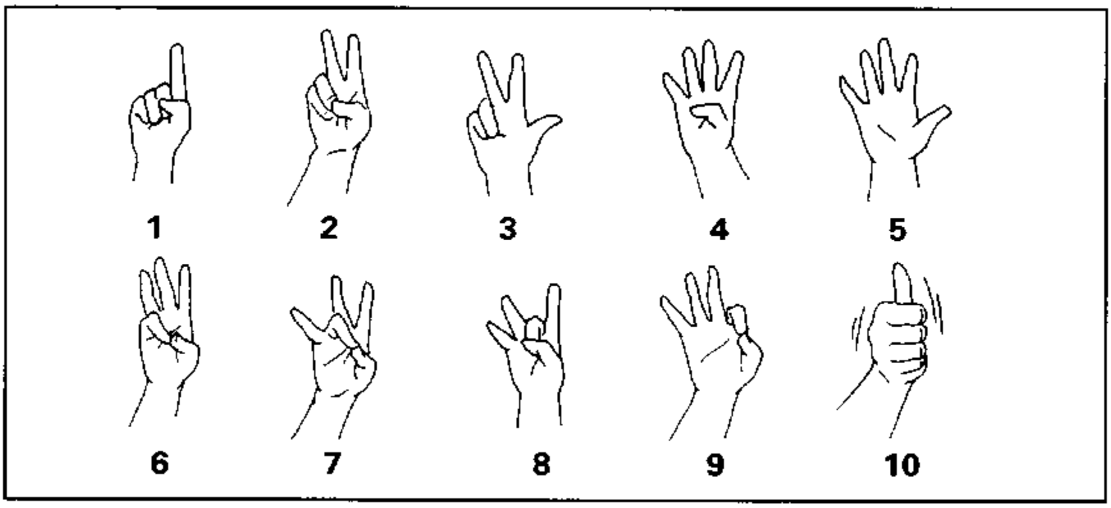


Figure 10. The Manual Numbers

Some letters of the American Manual Alphabet and some number handshapes are not included among the handshapes. The reason for this is that some handshapes are identical except for palm orientation (for example, H and U, K and P, 2 and V). In the context of forming a sign, palm orientation is determined by the sign, not by the handshape. The decision as to which of two identical handshapes was selected and which was eliminated was arbitrary.

The chart shown in figure 11 contains the handshapes used in this dictionary in the order in which they are arranged. For the sake of convenience, this ordering will be referred to as *morphologic order* because it is neither truly alphabetic nor numeric but a selective combination of both. The handshapes and their order are fundamental to the use of this dictionary.

Ordering of Signs within Handshape Sections

The number of hands used to make a sign is one of the easiest things to observe about sign production. This dictionary is divided into two handshape sections: the one-hand signs and the two-hand signs. This organization helps narrow the search for a sign to one of two large locations in the book. The handshape at the top of the even-numbered pages indicates the handshape of the first sign on the page. The handshape at the top of odd-numbered pages indicates the handshape of the last sign on the page.

One-Hand Signs

The illustrations for signs made with only one hand are presented in the first section of the dictionary. The signs follow the morphologic order of handshapes presented in figure 11, beginning with the signs that are made with an A handshape followed by those beginning with an Open A handshape, and so on. The signs within each handshape category are ordered in a specific sequence to assist the user in finding a sign. The signs presented first are those that have no change in handshape during sign production. For example, in the sign ANY, the handshape Open A stays the same, and therefore the sign ANY appears toward the beginning of the Open A handshape category. However, in the sign LADY, the handshape changes from Open A to 5 during the execution of the sign, so appears sequentially after all of the signs in which the handshape does not change. These changes in handshape are indicated by an arrowhead (>) between the handshapes; therefore, LADY appears under Open A > 5.

The one-hand signs have one more level of ordering—signs that are formed in space and do not touch the body appear before those signs that do

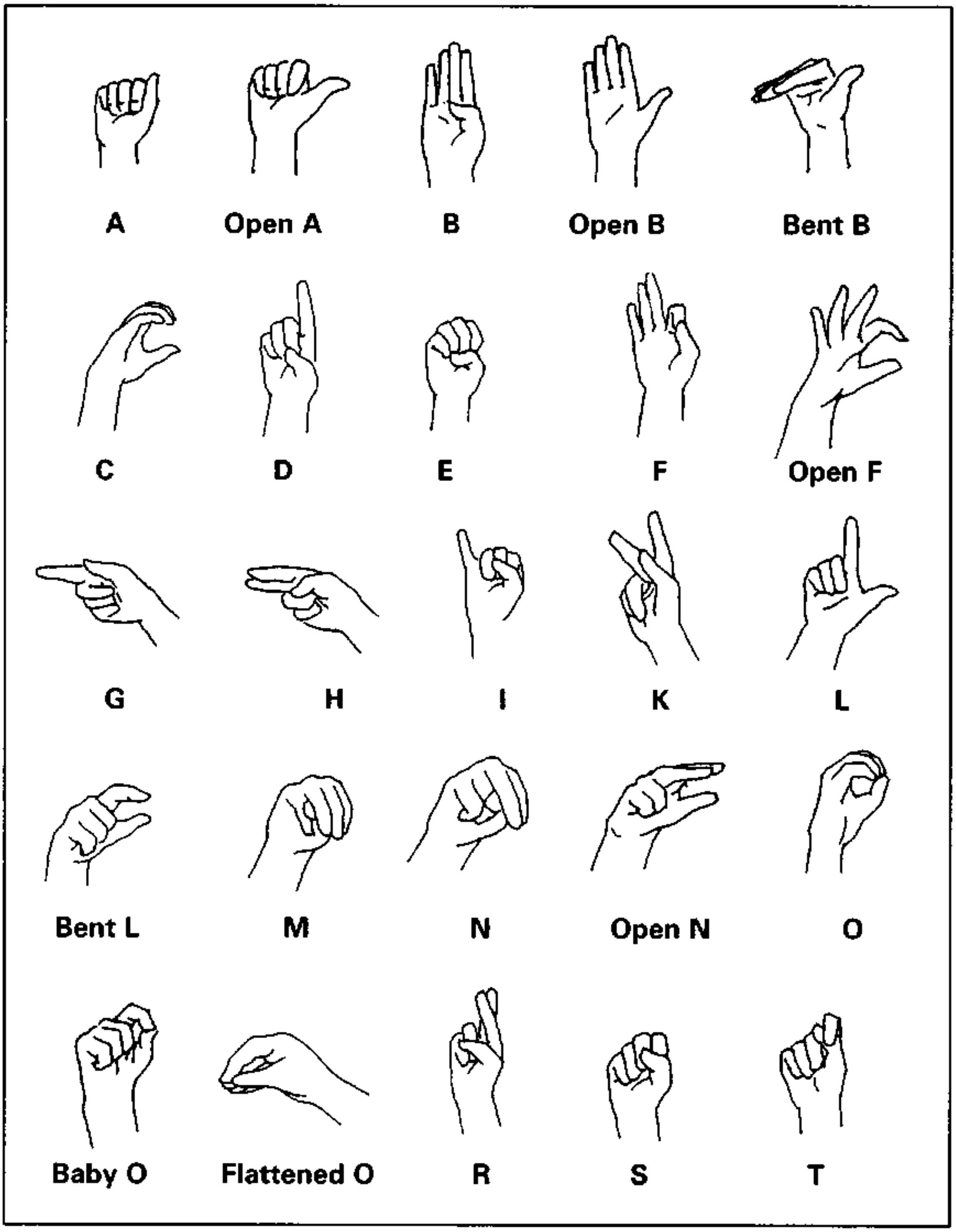


Figure 11. The handshapes used in this dictionary are presented in morphological order.

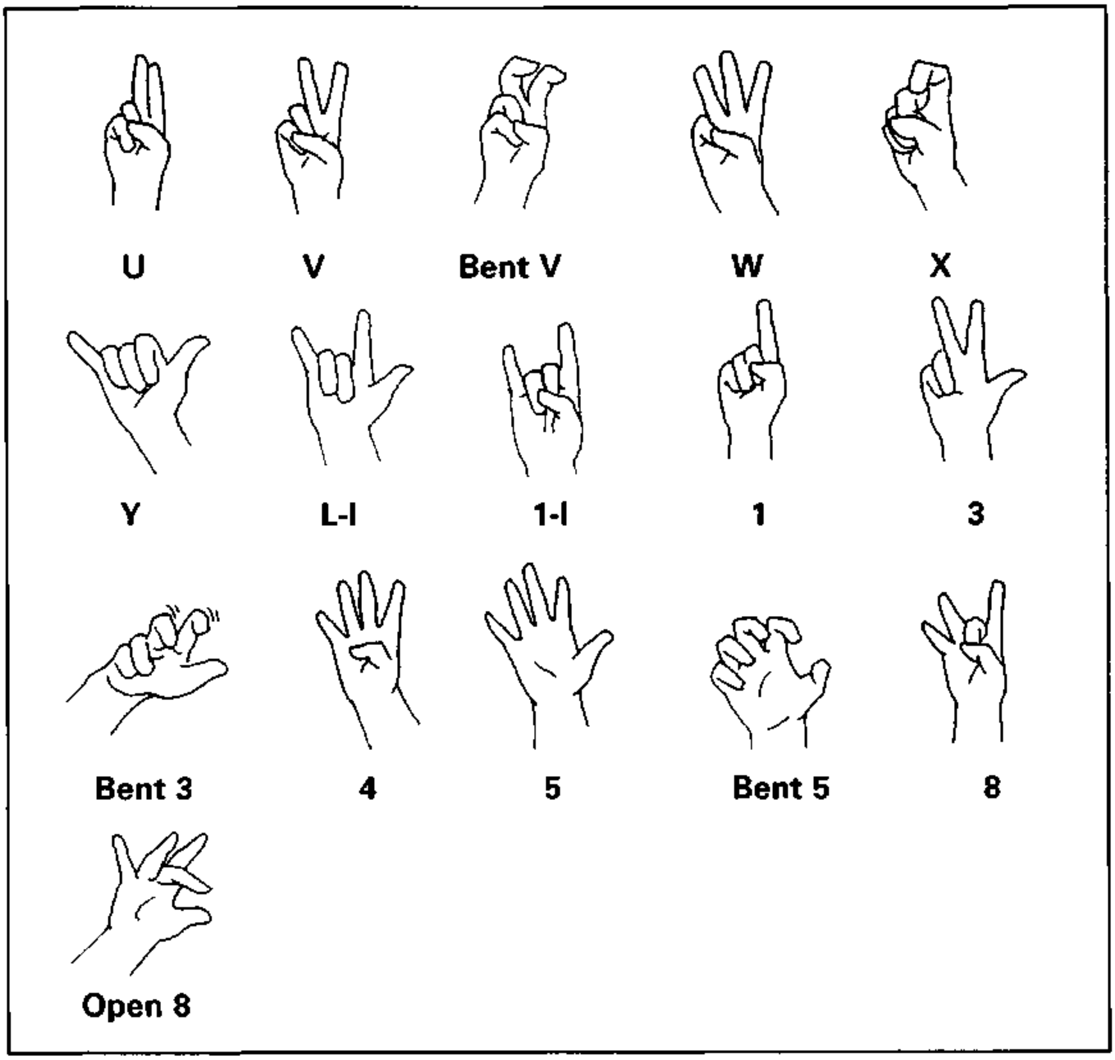


Figure 11 —continued

touch the body. Within the group of signs that touch the body, the ones that are formed on the head or neck precede those that touch the torso. Although this arrangement may not be important for small handshape categories, it will be very useful for quickly locating a particular sign in the handshape categories that contain many illustrations.

Two-Hand Signs

The section containing illustrations of signs in which two hands are used follows the one-hand signs section. The signs in the two-hand section follow the same morphologic order of handshapes as the one-hand signs. Remember that for two-hand signs, the order is determined by the initial

handshape of the dominant hand. The dominant hand is assumed to be the right hand in this book.

As with one-hand signs, two-hand signs are presented within each handshape category in a specific sequence. Signs in which both hands have identical handshapes and both hands move appear first. These signs are identified by listing the handshape for each hand separated by a colon (A : A, the first A being the handshape for the dominant hand and the second A being the handshape for the passive hand). These signs are further ordered to assist the user, so that signs in which the movement occurs simultaneously are presented before signs in which the movement is alternating (first one hand moves and then the other hand makes an identical movement).

These signs are followed by two-hand signs that have identical handshapes, but only the *dominant* hand moves. Again, the handshapes for these signs are listed by the dominant handshape first, followed by a colon and the handshape of the passive hand (for example, Open B : Open B for the sign PIE; see figure 12).

For most two-hand signs the dominant hand is a different handshape from the passive hand. These signs appear after the signs with identical handshapes. Ordered first by the handshape of the dominant hand, the signs are further arranged in the morphologic order of the passive hand, so that A : Open B comes before A : L, which comes before A : 1.

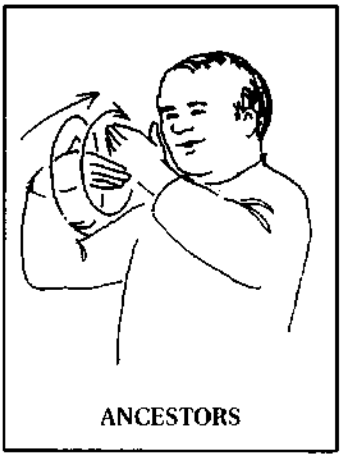


Figure 12. The two-hand signs are ordered so that signs with identical hand movement are followed by signs with alternating hand movement, which are then followed by signs in which only the dominant hand moves.

As with the signs in the one-hand sign section, two-hand signs sometimes change handshapes while the sign is being produced. The change may take place only in the dominant hand or in both hands; however, the handshape of the passive hand never changes alone. These signs in which the handshape changes follow the signs with no handshape changes.

In summary, the two-hand signs are presented in the following sequence:

1. Hands have the same handshapes and move simultaneously;
2. Hands have the same handshapes and move alternatingly;
3. Hands have the same handshapes, but only the dominant hand moves;
4. Hands have different handshapes, and the hands are ordered first by the handshape and movement of the dominant hand and second by the handshape of the passive hand.

This order is important for locating signs in very large handshape categories.

Additional Role of the Passive Hand

There are some signs in which the passive hand or arm serves only as a base for the dominant hand's movement. For example, the signs used for periods of time in a day use the passive arm to represent the horizon, whereas the dominant hand represents the sun's movement in relation to the horizon. The handshape of the passive hand is immaterial and does not contribute to the meaning of the sign. In forming these signs, the passive hand may assume one of a number of handshapes, usually an Open B, B, S, or a loose unformed handshape. In this dictionary, the signs formed in this manner are ordered under the passive handshape shown in the artist's illustration.

Compounds

One additional group of signs may be presented at the end of a handshape category. These are signs classified as *compounds*. Compound signs are created by combining two basic signs into one new sign with a distinct meaning of its own. For example, the sign WIFE is made up of the signs FEMALE (a one-hand sign with an A handshape) and MARRY—two separate

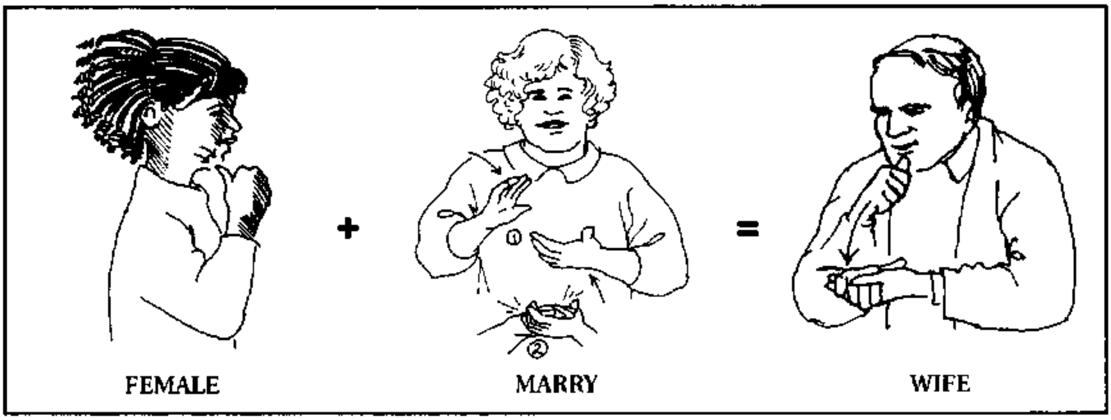


Figure 13. WIFE *is a compound sign made from* FEMALE + MARRY.

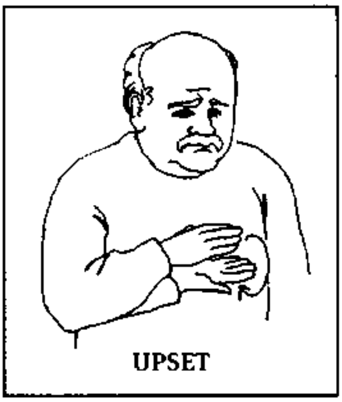
signs that have merged to become WIFE (see figure 13). In compound signs, the changes in handshapes are usually more complicated than regular signs, so they are presented at the end of the handshape category designated by the initial handshape of the first of the two signs being combined. In the case of WIFE, the sign is located at the end of all of the A signs in the one-hand section of the dictionary, even though two hands are used in the second part of the sign.

Techniques for Using the Handshape Sections

The following examples provide step-by-step guidelines for using the one-hand and two-hand sections of the dictionary. To get the greatest benefit from these examples, follow the instructions below and locate each sign as directed.

Example 1

Suppose you saw this sign and wanted to locate it in the dictionary. Your thinking should be as follows:



a. The sign is a one-hand sign. *(Go to the one-hand signs in the first section of the dictionary.)*

b. The sign has an Open B handshape. *(Go to the Open B category, which is located after B.)*

c. You observed that the hand touched the torso, so you would skip through the Open B category past the signs produced in space, past the signs that touch the head, until you reach those signs that touch the torso. *(Go through Open B until you come to those signs that touch the body.)* With quick perusal of the signs that touch the torso, you will easily find the illustration and learn that the English gloss for that sign is "upset."

Example 2

Suppose you had seen the following sign:

AIDE

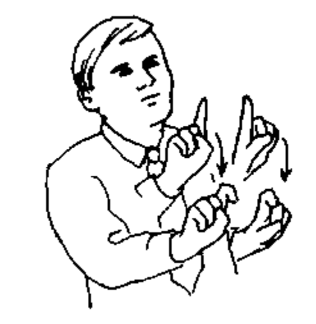
a. The sign uses two hands. *(Go to the two-hand sign section of the dictionary.)*

b. The dominant hand has an L handshape and the passive hand has an S handshape. *(Go to the handshape category of the dominant hand—L).* Observe that the two-hand signs in each category begin with those signs in which both hands have the same shape (in this category, it is L : L).

c. After the signs having identical handshapes, the signs are arranged in the morphological order of the shape of the passive hand (for example, S). *(Go through the L category until you come to L : S.)* In this case, AIDE is the only sign with L : S handshapes.

Example 3

Try to find a sign in which the handshape changes.



TEST

a. You observe that both hands begin with a 1 handshape and then both change to an X handshape. *(Go to the 1 handshape category in the two-hand section.)*

b. The 1 handshape category begins with all of the signs having identical handshapes on both hands (1 : 1). These are followed by

the signs that begin 1 : 1 and then change handshapes. The signs are listed in the morphological order of the handshape formed after the change, in this case X. *(Skip through the 1 : 1 signs; then page through the signs that have a change in handshape until you come to 1 > X : 1 > X. If you come to the signs whose passive handshape is no longer 1, you have gone too far.)* You should easily locate the illustration of the sign for which you were looking and discover that its English gloss is "test."

Example 4

Suppose you see a sign that begins as a one-hand sign and then changes to a two-hand sign. You guess that it is a compound sign.

HUSBAND

a. To find compound signs in this dictionary, you must pay attention only to the handshapes used at the beginning of the sign. You can see that this sign begins as a one-hand sign. *(Go to the one-hand sign section.)*

b. The first handshape in the sign is a Flattened O. *(Go to the Flattened O handshape category.)*

c. The compound signs are at the end of a handshape category. *(Go to the end of the Flattened O handshape category.)* You find that the first sign in the compound is MALE and that the second sign is MARRIAGE. Together, these signs form the sign HUSBAND.

Example 5

You see a two-hand sign in which the passive hand or arm merely serves as a base for the dominant hand. How do you find the sign?

SHEEP

a. The dominant hand has a V handshape, and you think that the passive hand has an Open B handshape. The passive hand could also be a B or S or relaxed hand without changing the meaning of the sign. *(Go to the two-hand section of the book. Then find the V : Open B signs.)*

b. The passive signs are at the end of the V : Open B signs, but before the compound signs, if there are any. The word *passive* is given after the handshape to indicate that it doesn't matter what shape the passive hand uses. *(Go to the end of the V : Open B handshape category until you come to signs designated as passive.)*

c. You should easily find the illustration for the sign SHEEP. If you cannot find the correct illustration, then you should proceed to look under B or S. (There are no relaxed hand handshape categories in this dictionary.)

Additional Clues

Sometimes you may look for a sign and not find it under the handshape category where you think it should be. The following list contains possible reasons why this might happen.

1. This dictionary contains about one-fourth of all the possible handshapes. Each sign has been categorized by the handshape it most closely resembles in its initial position.

2. This book is arranged by the initial handshape(s); sometimes it may be the final position of the sign that you remember.

3. The book contains only a few of the multitude of regional variations for signs.

4. Deaf people and other skilled signers often truncate their signs for more efficient and rapid communication.

5. You may have looked under the two-hand section for a sign that can be signed with one hand, or vice versa (for example, COW).

6. With compound signs, each part of the sign is typically signed rapidly and with less complete articulation (BROTHER is a compound of BOY and SAME, yet when signed together, SAME looks different than when it is signed alone).

7. Some handshapes are quite similar to others, especially when you observe someone signing rapidly. Figure 14 shows handshape "look-alikes." This information may help you find a sign under a different handshape than you expected.

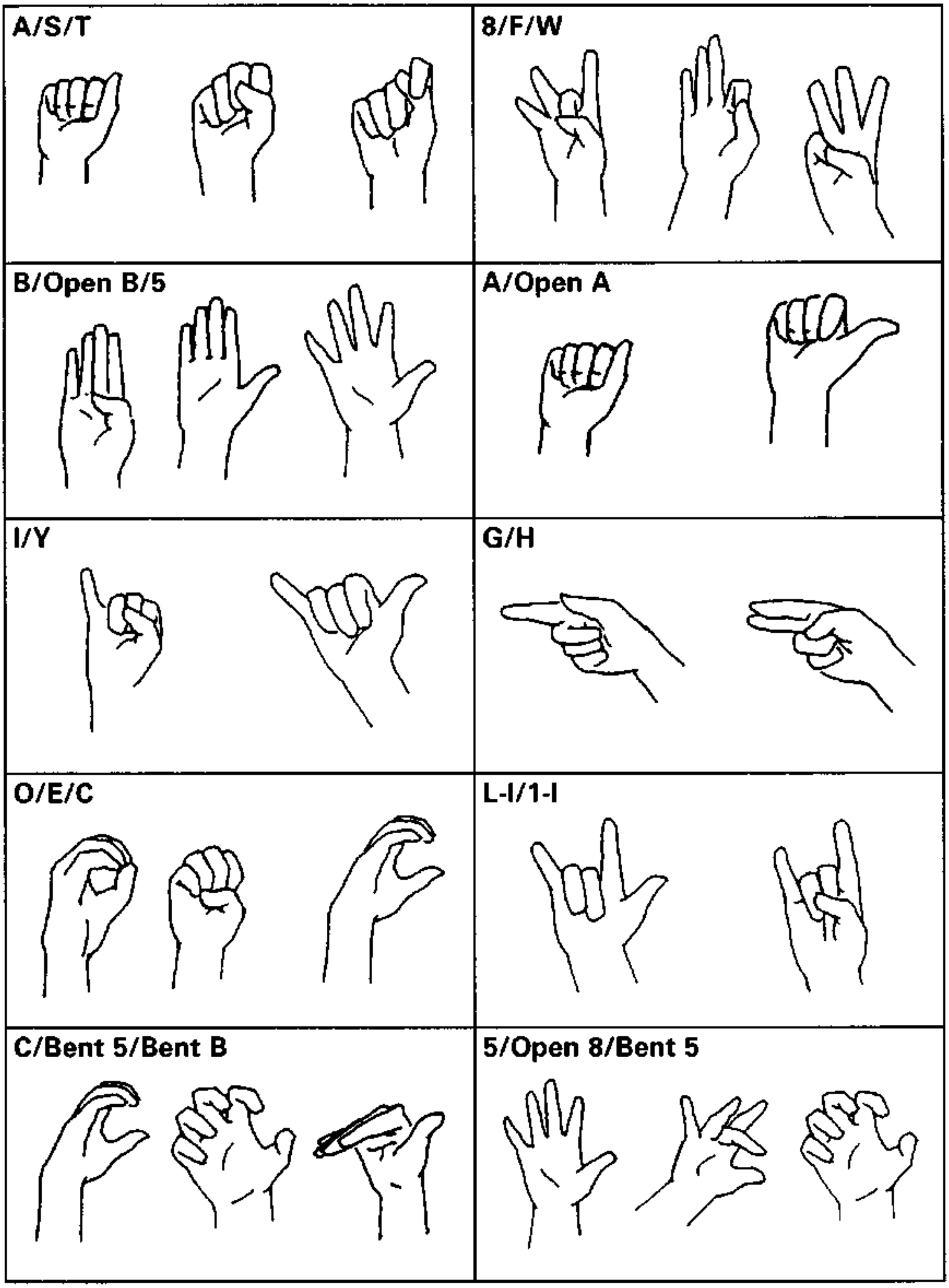


Figure 14. Handshape Look-alikes

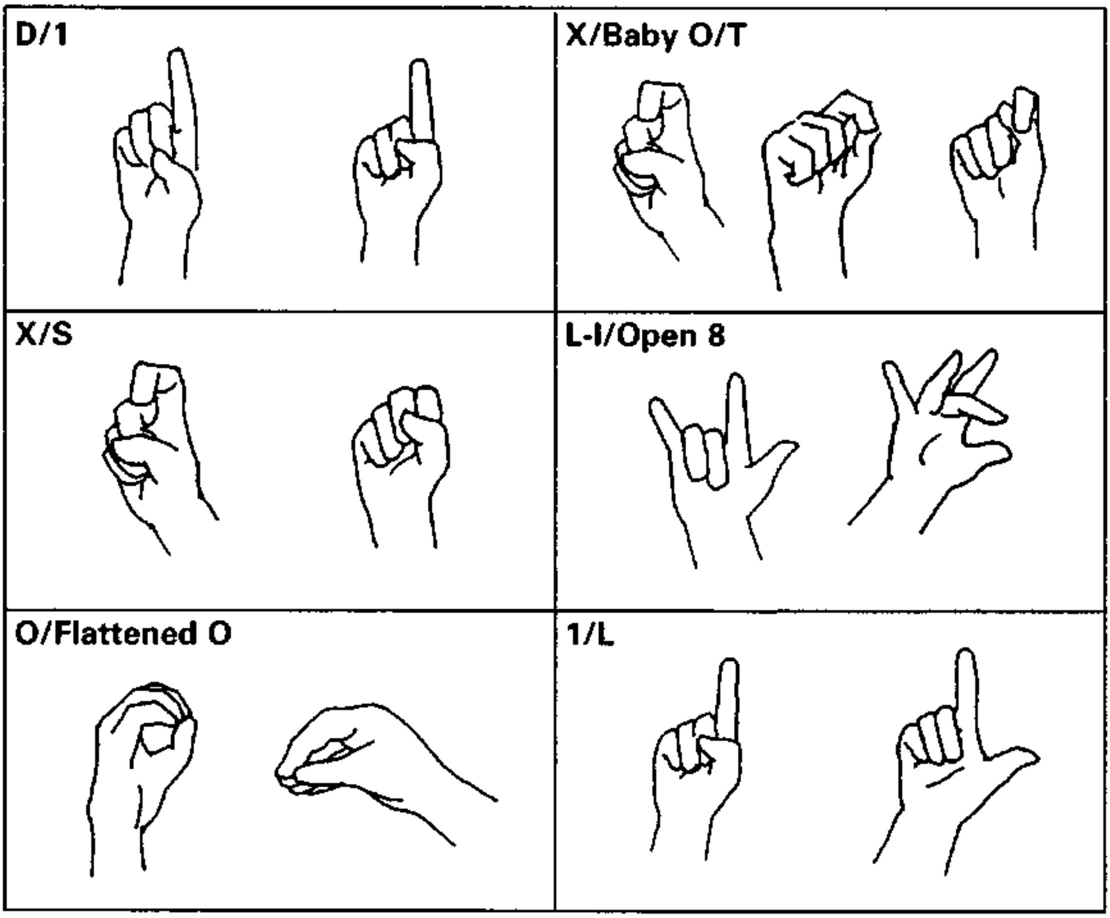


Figure 14 — continued

Organization of the Index of English Glosses

The Index of English Glosses section of this dictionary is an alphabetical listing of English words and phrases that appear as glosses with the sign illustrations in the handshape sections. Some words list more than one entry. These entries lead to several signs that can be used to express either the same or various meanings of those words. These entries usually have additional information (part of speech, synonym, meaning) to assist in identifying which entry may be the appropriate choice for the usage needed.

Information about the handshape for each sign is also given for each gloss entry. The handshape(s) of the sign may help the user further identify which of the identical entries is the one being sought.

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One-Hand Signs

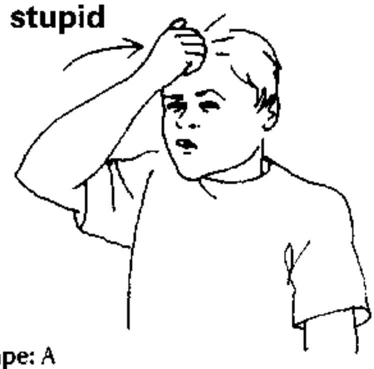
purse

Handshape: A
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand down
Note: This sign is similar to SUITCASE, which is made with an S handshape.

Africa, African

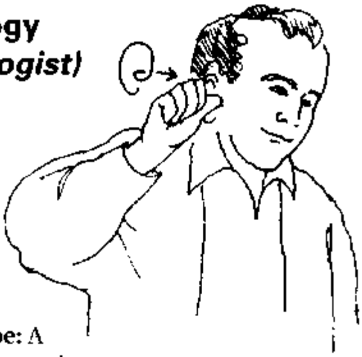
Handshape: A
Orientation: palm left
Location: in front of face
Movement: circle thumb around face
Note: This sign is disparaging to African Americans. See page 139 for the preferred sign.

dumb, stupid



Handshape: A
Orientation: palm in
Location: near forehead
Movement: move hand in and hit forehead

audiology *(audiologist)*

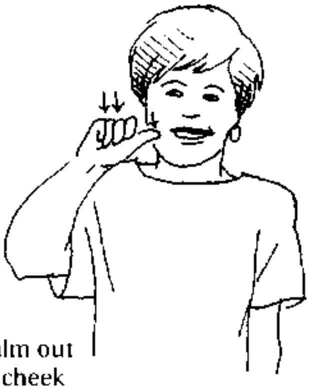


Handshape: A
Orientation: palm out
Location: near right ear
Movement: move thumb forward and make small circles around the ear

menstruate, period

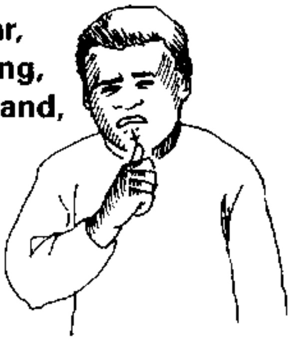
Handshape: A
Orientation: palm left
Location: right cheek
Movement: double bounce fingers against cheek
Nonmanual signal: puff air into right cheek

aunt



Handshape: A
Orientation: palm out
Location: right cheek
Movement: move thumb down cheek in two short movements
Note: Movement may be circular.

patient, bear, long-suffering, patience, stand, tolerance, withstand



Handshape: A
Orientation: palm left
Location: lips
Movement: move thumb down to chin

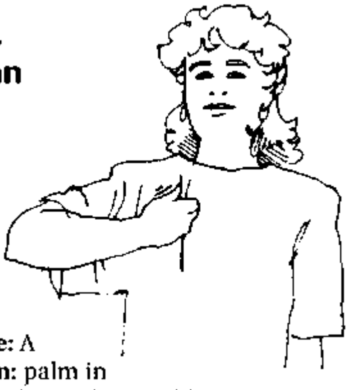
private, confidential, privacy, secret, top-secret

Handshape: A
Orientation: palm left
Location: near chin
Movement: gently tap chin twice

am

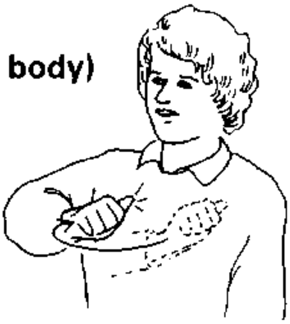
Handshape: A
Orientation: palm left
Location: mouth
Movement: move thumb straight out from mouth
Note: Use this sign only when signing manual English.

Canada, Canadian



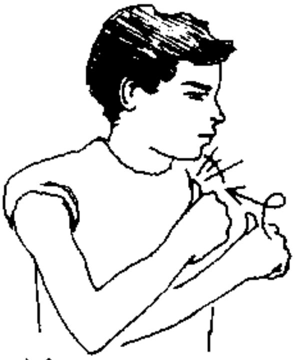
Handshape: A
Orientation: palm in
Location: below right shoulder
Movement: double bounce hand off chest
Note: The hand grasps clothing.

assembly (legislative body)



Handshape: A
Orientation: palm left, back of thumb against chest
Location: left side of chest
Movement: arc hand from left side of chest to right side of chest

attitude



Handshape: A
Orientation: palm left
Location: below left shoulder
Movement: make small circular movement, ending with thumb on chest

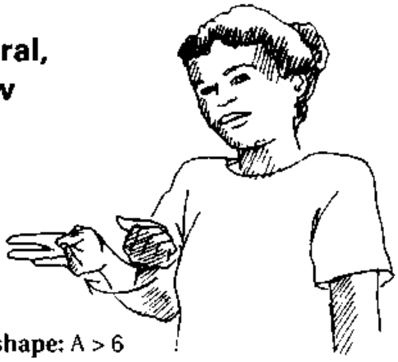
zip (SM), zipper (DM)

Handshape: A
Orientation: palm in
Location: waist
Movement: move hand up the chest

sorry, apologize, regret, remorse, repent

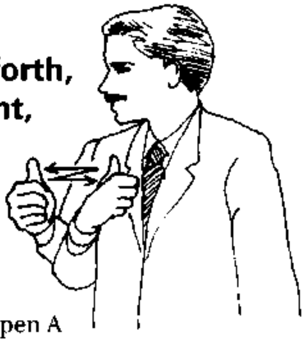
Handshape: A
Orientation: palm in
Location: center of chest
Movement: circle hand on chest
Nonmanual signal: head and eyes lowered; "sad" expression

several, a few



Handshape: A > 6
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: sweep thumb across fingertips from index finger to little finger

commute, back and forth, day student, round-trip



Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand forward and back twice

another, else, elsewhere, other

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: turn hand up, ending with palm up

any

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: turn hand down, ending with palm down

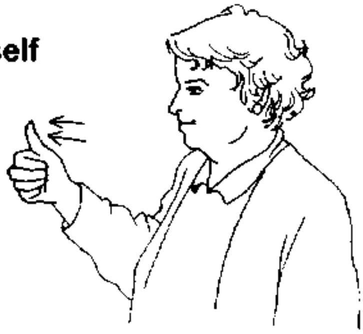
turn down, deny, reject

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrist, ending with thumb pointing down

herself, himself, itself

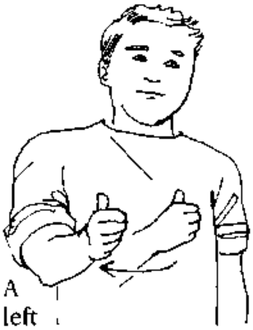
Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce toward referent
Nonmanual signal: eyes on the person to whom you are speaking

yourself



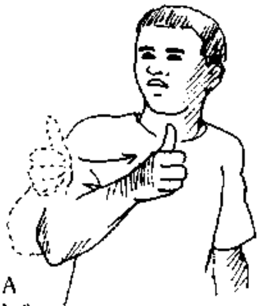
Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce toward referent
Nonmanual signal: eyes on referent

yourselves



Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc thumb from left to right in front of chest
Nonmanual signal: eyes on people to whom you are speaking

themselves

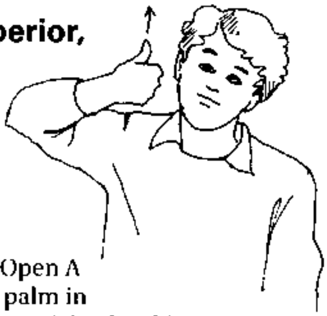


Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc thumb right to left toward referents
Nonmanual signal: eyes on person to whom you are speaking

bye, good luck, take care

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand forward toward referent

chief, superior, -er, -est



Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm in
Location: above right shoulder
Movement: jerk thumb upward above shoulder
Note: The hand makes a larger movement upward to indicate a higher status.

refuse, won't

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: in front of right shoulder
Movement: jerk thumb sharply toward right shoulder
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

daily, common, everyday, ordinary, usual

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: right cheek
Movement: brush knuckles down cheek twice

yesterday

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm out
Location: near mouth
Movement: arc thumb back to touch cheek
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts up; head tilts right; "cz" mouth movement

tomorrow

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: right cheek
Movement: twist wrist forward
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts up; head tilts right; "cz" mouth movement

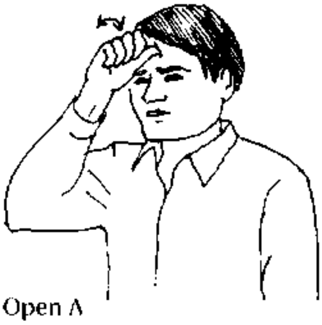
nut, peanut

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb under front teeth
Movement: flick thumb forward with short double movement

drink (alcoholic beverage)

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: near mouth
Movement: move thumb in toward mouth twice

India



Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: twist thumb back and forth on forehead in small, quick movements

girl

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on cheek
Movement: brush thumb forward on cheek twice

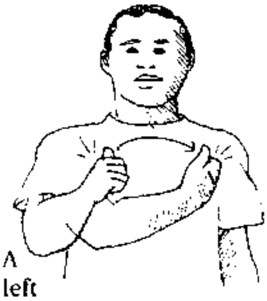
not, don't

Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: under chin
Movement: thrust hand forward
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

myself, self

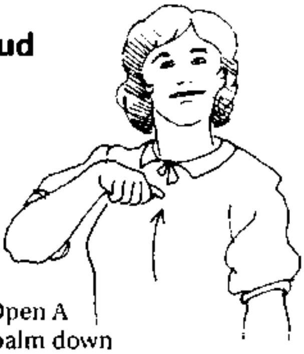
Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm right
Location: chest
Movement: double bounce hand on chest

ourselves



Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb below right shoulder
Movement: arc hand across chest, ending with knuckles on left chest area, palm right
Nonmanual signal: eyes on persons to whom you are speaking

pride, proud

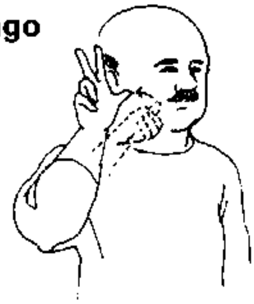


Handshape: Open A
Orientation: palm down
Location: lower chest
Movement: slide thumb up chest
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

she, her (not possessive)

Handshape: Open A > 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on cheek
Movement: brush thumb down cheek; point to referent
Nonmanual signal: eyes on person to whom you are speaking

a few days ago



Handshape: Open A > 3
Orientation: palm down
Location: thumb on cheek
Movement: flip hand back while changing to 3 handshape

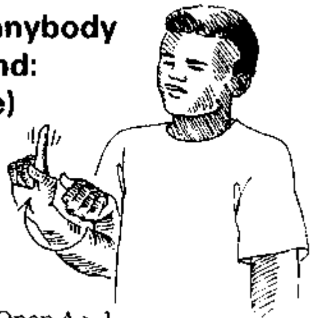
lady, female, woman

Handshape: Open A > 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on cheek
Movement: move thumb down cheek, then open hand to 5 handshape and bounce thumb down on chest

anything (compound: any + thing)

Handshape: Open A > Open B
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrist down, then change to Open B handshape and flip hand up

anyone, anybody (compound: any + one)



Handshape: Open A > 1
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrist down and change hand to 1 handshape, palm forward

daughter (compound: girl + baby)

Handshape: Open A > Open B : passive
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on cheek
Movement: brush thumb down cheek, then change hand to Open B handshape and move arm down, ending with back of right arm on top of left arm

wife (compound: girl + marry)

Handshape: Open A > C : C
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on cheek
Movement: brush thumb down cheek, then change to C handshape and clasp left hand

sister (compound: girl + same)

Handshape: Open A > L : L
Orientation: right palm left, left palm right
Location: right thumb on cheek
Movement: move thumb down cheek, then change hand to L handshape and bring hand down on top of left hand

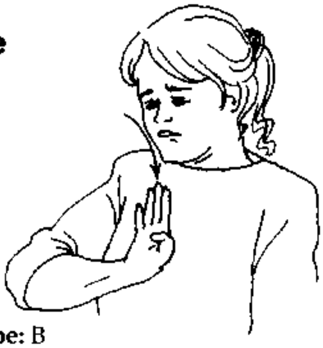
blue

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrist back and forth twice

never

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: in front of face
Movement: move hand down with large wavy motion
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

humble



Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: in front of face
Movement: arc hand down
Nonmanual signal: head lowered

hospital

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: arc hand from right to left side of forehead

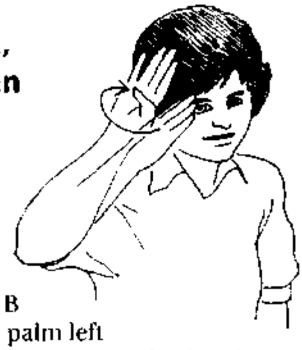
firefighter, fireman

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm out
Location: middle of forehead
Movement: tap forehead twice

fever

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm out
Location: near forehead
Movement: lay back of hand lightly on forehead
Nonmanual signal: "sick" expression

Australia, Australian

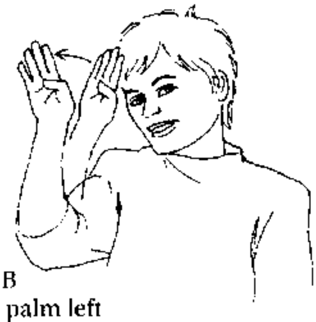


Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: index finger on forehead
Movement: flip hand back, ending with palm out
Note: See page 363 for the preferred sign.

bastard

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near forehead
Movement: hit forehead sharply with edge of hand

hello, hi, greet



Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: move hand forward and tilt fingers forward
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; smile

be

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand straight out, away from mouth
Note: Use this sign only when signing manual English.

bachelor

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: right side of chin
Movement: arc hand from right to left side of chin

beer

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm out
Location: cheek
Movement: brush index finger down cheek twice

brown

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm out
Location: cheek
Movement: slide index finger down cheek

bullshit, brownnose

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: nose
Movement: slide index finger up and down nose twice

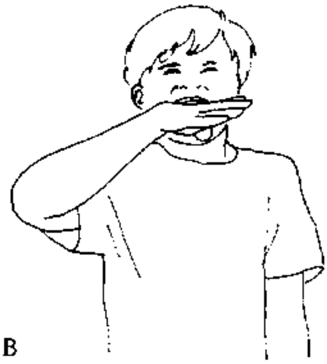
lie *(liar)*, slander

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm down
Location: chin
Movement: move hand right to left across chin

full, fed up, up to here

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm down
Location: under chin
Movement: bring back of hand up sharply and hit chin
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back

bite

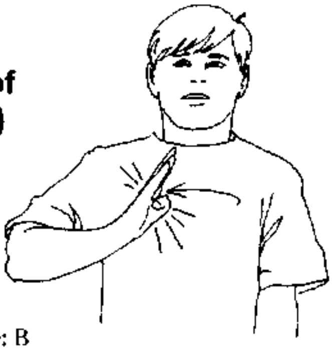


Handshape: B
Orientation: palm down
Location: mouth
Movement: put edge of hand between teeth

bitch

Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near mouth
Movement: hit mouth sharply with index finger

board (group of persons)

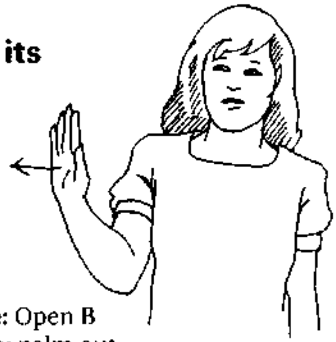


Handshape: B
Orientation: palm left
Location: chest
Movement: arc hand from left to right side of chest

your, yours (singular)

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand forward toward referent
Nonmanual signal: eyes on referent

his, her, its

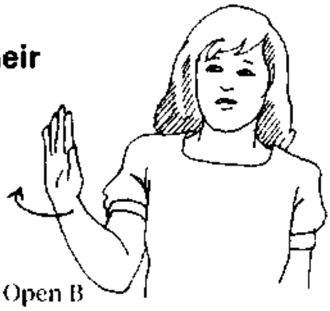


Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand toward referent
Nonmanual signal: eyes on person to whom you are speaking

yours (plural)

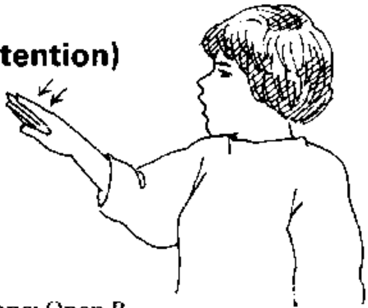
Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in arc from left to right
Nonmanual signal: eyes on people to whom you are speaking

theirs, their



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: point hand toward referents and make a small arc from left to right
Nonmanual signal: eyes on person to whom you are speaking

call (for attention)



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm angled out
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand down
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

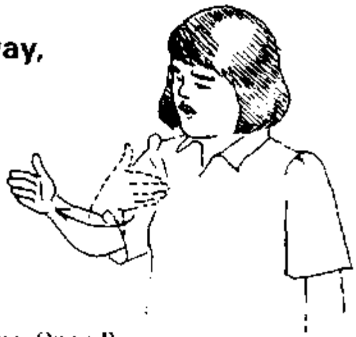
thing, object

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hand to the right
Note: This sign can also be made with a double bounce to the right.

welcome, employ, hire

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hand down and in toward chest, ending palm up

get away, away



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip hand out sharply
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

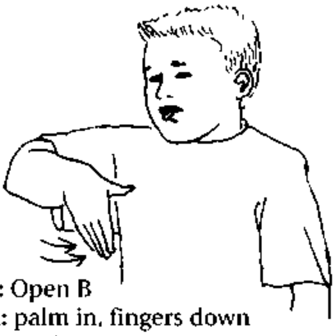
come here

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in, fingers angled up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist in toward chest

grow up, all my life, childhood, raised, reared, upbringing

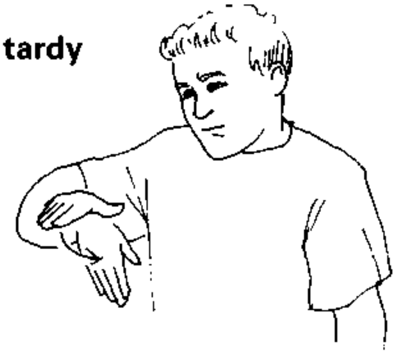
Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand up to eye level
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; eyes watch hand movement

not yet, haven't



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in, fingers down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing fingers back toward body twice
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue protruding

late, tardy

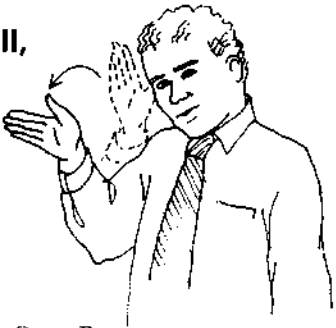


Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing fingers back

hello, hi (SM); good-bye, so long (DM)

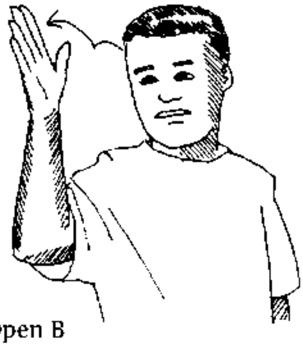
Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm out
Location: near right shoulder
Movement: wave hand from side to side

will, shall, would



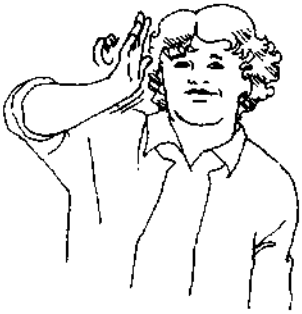
Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: move hand forward while tipping fingers forward

future, later on, someday



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: move hand forward in double arc

formerly, ages ago, ancestors, ancient, former, previously



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: circle hand back twice
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder up

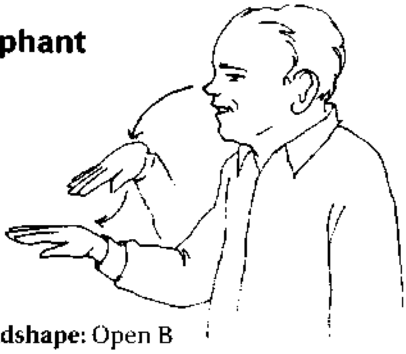
God

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: above head
Movement: arc hand down in front of face
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; eyes gaze up and follow hand movement

lecture, oration, presentation, speech, testimony

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: shake hand forward and back from wrist several times

elephant



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm down
Location: near nose
Movement: move hand down and forward, tracing the shape of a trunk

mirror

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near face
Movement: rotate palm forward and back twice
Nonmanual signal: eyes watch hand movement

apparent, appear, seem

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm out
Location: near face
Movement: twist palm slightly in

smell, fragrant, odor

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: circle hand up toward nose
Nonmanual signal: wrinkle nose; purse lips

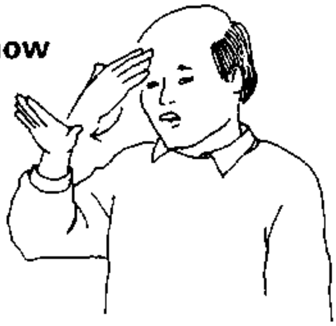
in front of, front

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: double bounce hand toward face

overlook, incognito, invisible

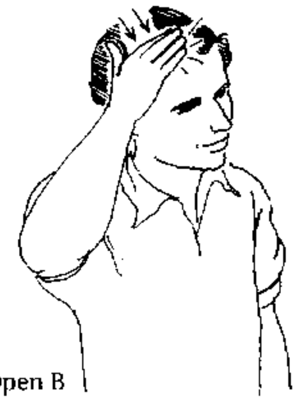
Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of right eye
Movement: move hand down across face

don't know



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in, fingers up
Location: forehead
Movement: flip hand out and down
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

hat



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm down
Location: top of head
Movement: tap top of head twice

cabbage, lettuce

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: temple
Movement: hit temple with heel of hand twice

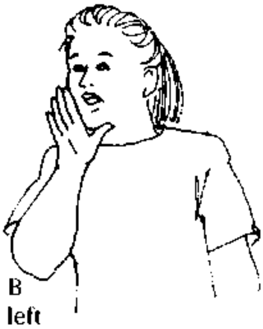
bed, sleep

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: cheek
Movement: rest cheek on palm
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right

hear, listen

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near ear
Movement: bring hand back behind ear
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left

call (to get attention)



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: near mouth
Movement: move hand back to right side of mouth
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back, mouth opens

whisper (hearing people)

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: in front of mouth
Movement: move hand back to left side of mouth
Nonmanual signal: head and body tilt to the right

frustrated

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm out
Location: near mouth
Movement: smack back of hand against mouth
Nonmanual signal: "frustrated" expression

thank you, thanks

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand forward
Nonmanual signal: head bows; smile

napkin

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: brush hand across mouth twice

ice cream

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: brush hand down lips twice

sweet, adorable

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: brush fingertips down chin twice

bad, evil, wicked

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in, fingers angled up
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand out, then turn hand over and sharply bend wrist down

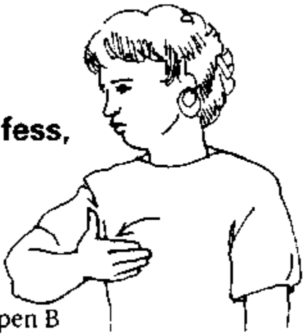
my (SM); mine (DM)

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: pat chest with palm

our, ours

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb near right shoulder
Movement: arc hand across chest, ending with palm right
Nonmanual signal: eyes pan the eyes of all the referents

willing, acquiesce, admit, confess, consent, give in, yield



Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: palm on chest
Movement: move hand out a short distance
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward

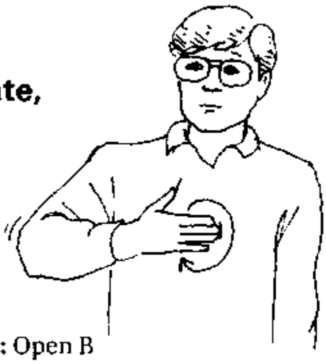
happy, delight, glad, joy, merry

Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: brush hand up in a circular motion twice
Nonmanual signal: smile

upset

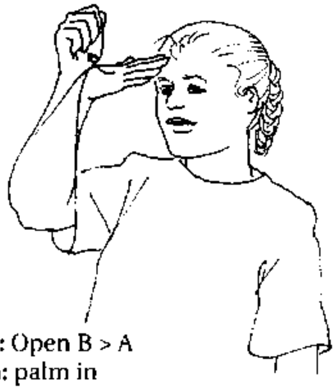
Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm down
Location: index finger on chest
Movement: flip hand over, ending with palm up
Nonmanual signal: "angry" or "sad" expression

please, appreciate, enjoy



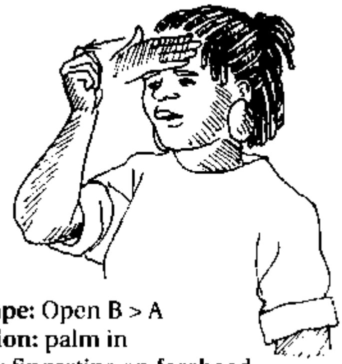
Handshape: Open B
Orientation: palm in
Location: palm on chest
Movement: make small circles on chest
Nonmanual signal: smile

because



Handshape: Open B > A
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on forehead
Movement: arc hand up, closing to A handshape

forget



Handshape: Open B > A
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on forehead
Movement: slide fingers across and off forehead, closing to A handshape
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back

better

Handshape: Open B > A
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand out to the right, closing to A handshape
Note: Exaggerate movement upward to form the superlative form, "best."

prefer, rather

Handshape: Open B > A
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: arc hand up to the right, closing to A handshape

dog

Handshape: Open B > A
Orientation: palm left
Location: right thigh
Movement: smack thigh, then move hand up and snap fingers twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

stubborn, obstinate, persistent

Handshape: Open B > Bent B
Orientation: palm out
Location: thumb on right temple
Movement: bend fingers down sharply
Nonmanual signal: eyebrows knit, frown

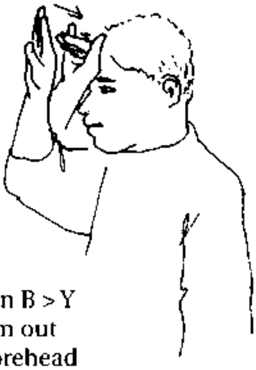
sleepy

Handshape: Open B > Bent B
Orientation: palm in, fingers up
Location: in front of face
Movement: bend fingers down twice
Nonmanual signal: droopy eyes

pig

Handshape: Open B > Bent B
Orientation: palm down
Location: under chin
Movement: bend fingers down and up twice

dweeb, jerk, nerd

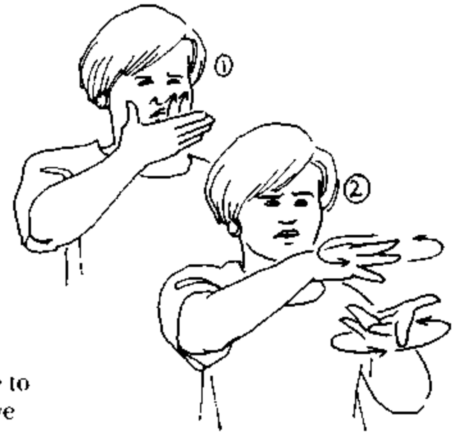


Handshape: Open B > Y
Orientation: palm out
Location: near forehead
Movement: bring hand back against forehead while changing to Y handshape
Nonmanual signal: tongue protrudes

why

Handshape: Open B > Y
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on forehead
Movement: move hand forward and down while changing to Y handshape
Nonmanual signal: "questioning" expression
Note: See page 115 for a variation of this sign.

pollution (compound: smell + mix)



Handshape: Open B > 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: right hand in front of mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: brush hand up toward nose, then change to 5 handshape, palm down above left palm, and move hands in circular motion

BENT B ❧ 1-Hand SIGNS

short, small (height)

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand down
Nonmanual signal: eyes follow hand

child

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand down a short distance

adult, tall, big

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand up
Nonmanual signal: eyes follow hand

back, behind, rear

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm in
Location: above right shoulder
Movement: double bounce hand back over right shoulder

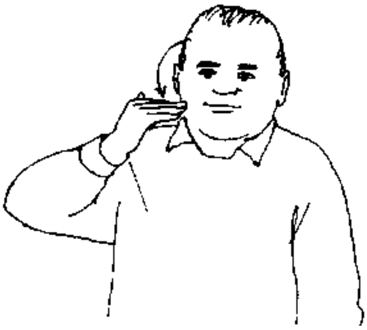
past, ago, ex-, last, previous, was

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of right shoulder
Movement: move hand back over right shoulder

know (SM); aware, conscious, familiar, knowledge, mental, recognize (DM)

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm in
Location: near temple
Movement: tap temple with fingertips

head

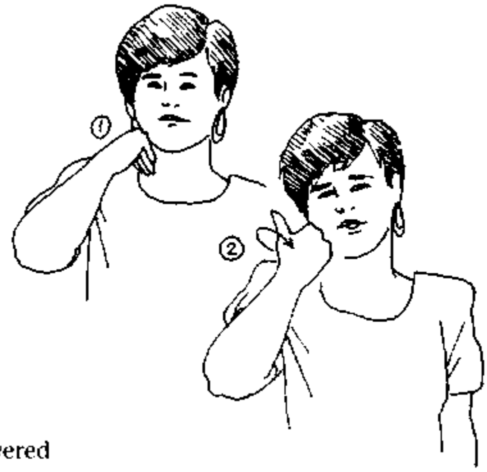


Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm down
Location: temple
Movement: move fingertips from right temple to right cheek

broke, penniless

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm down
Location: near neck
Movement: strike side of neck with side of hand
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left

ashamed, bashful, shame, shy

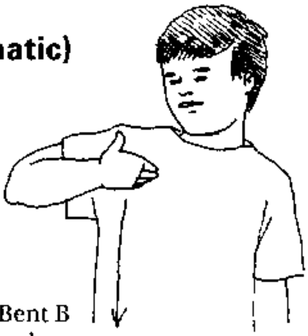


Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm down
Location: knuckles on cheek
Movement: twist hand up
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; eyes lowered

blouse

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on chest
Movement: arc hand down to waist, ending with palm up

me (dramatic)



Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm up
Location: fingertips on chest
Movement: slide hand down chest to waist
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

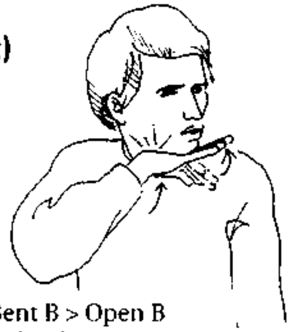
member

Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on left side of chest
Movement: arc hand across to right side of chest

breasts

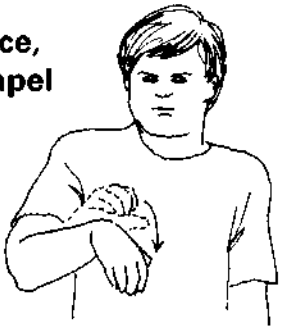
Handshape: Bent B
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on left breast
Movement: arc hand across to right breast

pig (insult)



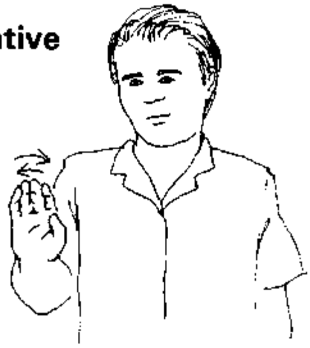
Handshape: Bent B > Open B
Orientation: palm down
Location: under chin
Movement: smack hand up sharply to hit chin while straightening fingers
Nonmanual signal: "disgusted" expression

force, coerce, compel, impel



Handshape: C
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand forward and bend wrist down

conservative

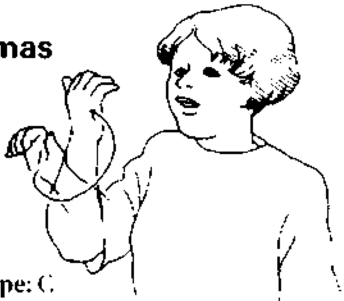


Handshape: C
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand gently side to side

Chicago

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand to the right and down

Christmas



Handshape: C
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hand in a semicircle, ending with palm in
Note: See page 64 for a variation of this sign

strange, curious, odd, queer, weird

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: near right eye
Movement: bend wrist down, ending with palm down in front of chin
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; frown with "puzzled" expression

examine, investigate, look for, probe, search, seek

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: near face
Movement: circle hand to the left in front of face at least twice
Nonmanual signal: head and body move slightly left with each circular movement; eyes scan room
Note: When referring to a more thorough examination, use both hands in an alternating movement.

cousin *(male)*

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: near temple
Movement: twist wrist back and forth
Note: The sign for a female cousin is made near the chin.

computer

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: right temple
Movement: double bounce thumb against temple

sun

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: near right temple
Movement: double bounce fingertips against temple
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left

genius

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: near forehead
Movement: move hand back, ending with thumb on forehead
Nonmanual signal: puffed cheeks

concept, cognitive

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm in
Location: thumb on forehead
Movement: move hand out

choke, gag

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on neck
Movement: shake hand slightly from side to side
Nonmanual signal: "choking" expression

Christmas, Santa Claus

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: arc hand down to chest, ending with palm up
Note: See page 63 for a variation of this sign.

drink, beverage

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on mouth
Movement: tilt hand up

cafeteria

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: index finger on left side of chin
Movement: slide index finger down left side of chin, then down right side of chin

beard

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on right side of chin
Movement: slide fingers across to left side of chin

appetite, hunger, hungry, wish (SM); passion, lust (DM)

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on chest
Movement: slide fingertips slowly down chest; for "passion" and "lust," make shorter, faster movements

cop, guard, patrol, police, security

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: chest
Movement: double bounce side of hand on chest

character

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: near chest
Movement: move hand in a small circle, then drop hand on chest

Congress, committee, council

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: left side of chest
Movement: arc hand across to right side of chest

complain, object (SM); complain, grievance, objection (DM)

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: double bounce fingertips against chest

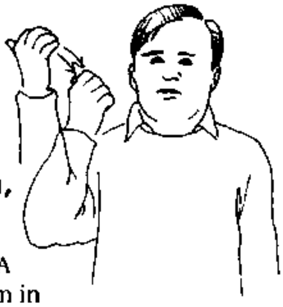
Christ *(Christian)*

Handshape: C
Orientation: palm left
Location: below left shoulder
Movement: move hand across body down to right side of waist

cough

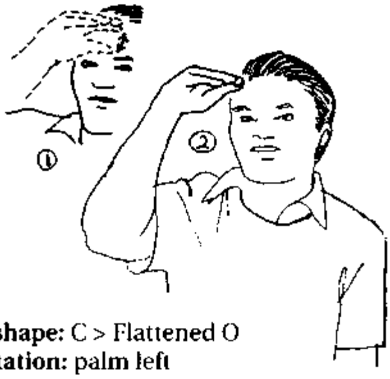
Handshape: C
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on chest
Movement: rock hand up and down
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; "sick" expression

pension, allowance, dividend, royalty, subscription, welfare



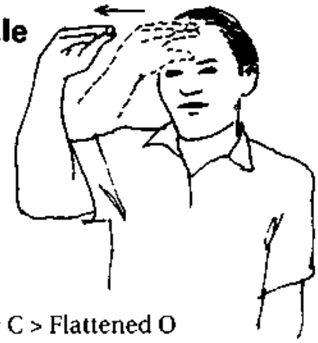
Handshape: C > A
Orientation: palm in
Location: near head
Movement: bring hand down in short, quick double motion while changing to A handshape
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

boy



Handshape: C > Flattened O
Orientation: palm left
Location: near forehead
Movement: close fingertips and thumb together twice

man, male

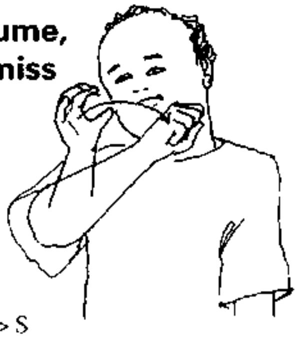


Handshape: C > Flattened O
Orientation: palm left
Location: near forehead
Movement: move hand forward, closing fingertips and thumb

milk, dairy

Handshape: C > S
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: open and close fist twice

guess, assume, estimate, miss

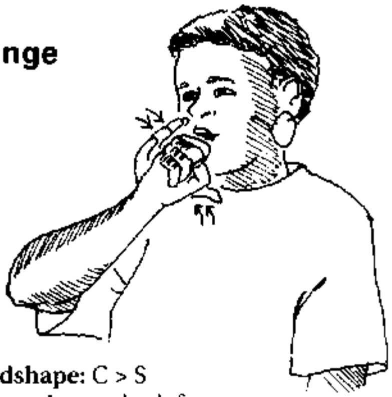


Handshape: C > S
Orientation: palm left
Location: right side of face
Movement: arc hand across face, closing to S handshape

old, age, antique

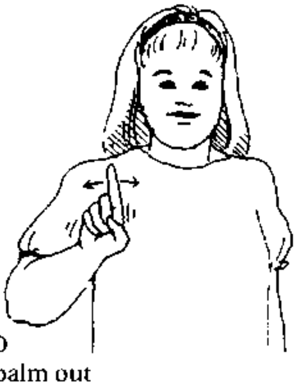
Handshape: C > S
Orientation: palm left
Location: index finger on chin
Movement: move hand down while changing to S handshape

orange



Handshape: C > S
Orientation: palm left
Location: near mouth
Movement: open and close fist twice

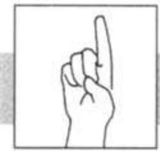
democrat



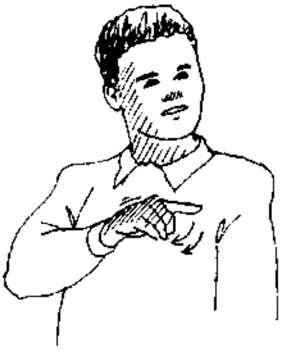
Handshape: D
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand back and forth, gently

dinner

Handshape: D
Orientation: palm in
Location: near chin
Movement: tap chin twice with fingertips



detective



Handshape: D
Orientation: palm down
Location: chest
Movement: brush fingertips down chest twice

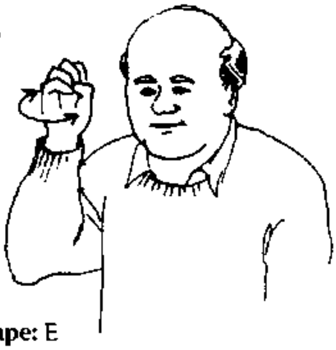
east

Handshape: E
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand right

elevator

Handshape: E
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand up and down

Easter

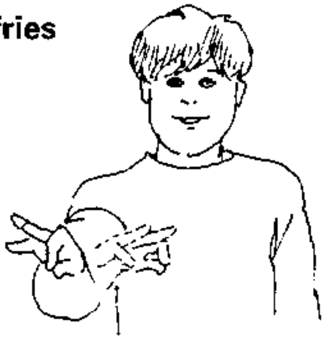


Handshape: E
Orientation: palm out
Location: near head
Movement: twist wrist back and forth with small movement

Europe

Handshape: E
Orientation: palm in
Location: near forehead
Movement: move hand in small circle

french fries



Handshape: F
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hand from left to right

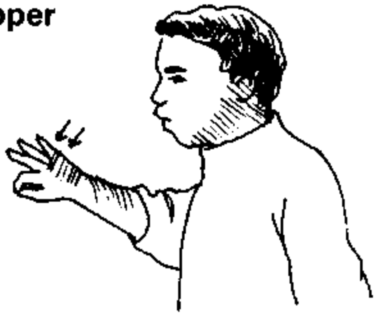
Friday

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in gentle circular motion

every Friday, Fridays

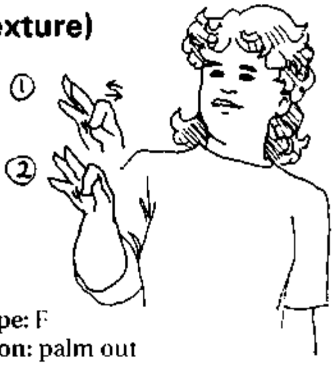
Handshape: F
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: move hand down

pepper



Handshape: F
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand down

fine (texture)



Handshape: F
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: rub index finger and thumb together several times

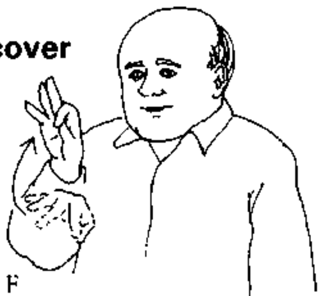
furniture

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand slightly side to side

preach *(minister, pastor, preacher),* sermon

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm out
Location: near right shoulder
Movement: double bounce hand forward
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

find, discover

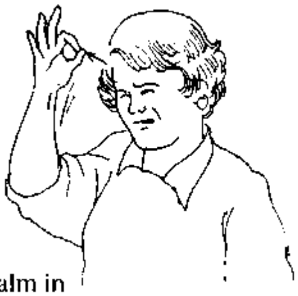


Handshape: F
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist up, ending with palm out
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; mouth open

France, French

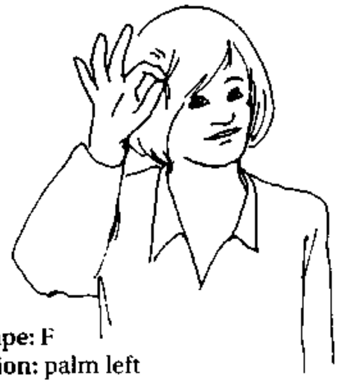
Handshape: F
Orientation: palm out
Location: near head
Movement: swing hand in a semicircle, ending with palm in

in the nick of time



Handshape: F
Orientation: palm in
Location: thumb and index fingertips on right eyebrow
Movement: move hand out in a short, quick motion
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts up; head tilts right; "cz" mouth movement

hair



Handshape: F
Orientation: palm left
Location: head
Movement: grasp hair and pull up twice, using short, quick motions

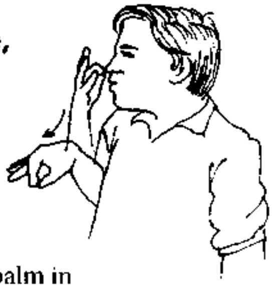
Native American, American Indian, Indian

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm left
Location: near chin
Movement: bounce thumb and index fingertips back along cheek toward ear

earring

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm left
Location: right earlobe
Movement: wiggle earlobe several times

very close, nearby



Handshape: F
Orientation: palm in
Location: thumb and index fingertips on nose
Movement: twist hand sharply out and bend wrist down
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts up; head tilts right; "cz" mouth movement

fox

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb and index fingertips on nose
Movement: twist wrist back and forth

fruit

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb and index fingertips on cheek
Movement: twist hand forward twice

cat

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm left
Location: cheek
Movement: brush index finger and thumb back toward ear twice
Note: See page 223 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

soon

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: tap chin twice
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts up; head tilts right; "cz" mouth movement

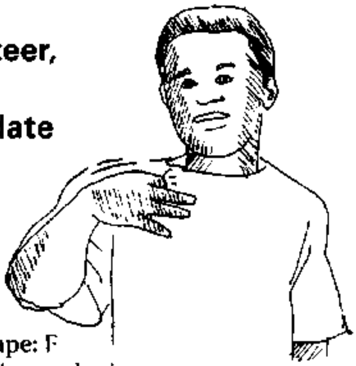
knack, expert

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm in
Location: near chin
Movement: bring hand in to hit chin
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

curious

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm in
Location: neck
Movement: grasp skin of neck and pull side to side
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; eyebrows knit

volunteer, apply, candidate



Handshape: F
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: grasp shirt fabric and tug twice
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder raised

benefit, advantage

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm down
Location: on chest
Movement: brush thumb and index fingertips down chest

profit, commission, gain

Handshape: F
Orientation: palm down
Location: ribs
Movement: brush thumb and index fingertips down body
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder raised

pill, capsule, take a pill

Handshape: F > Open F
Orientation: palm in
Location: near mouth
Movement: move hand toward mouth and flick open index finger and thumb twice
Nonmanual signal: mouth open

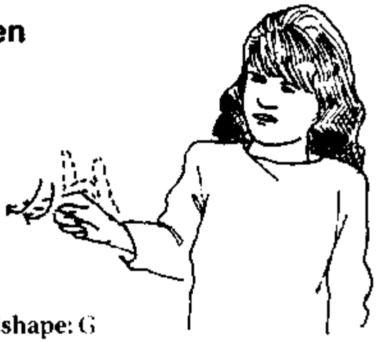
appoint, choose, select

Handshape: Open F > F
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist back, closing to F handshape

skunk

Handshape: Open F > G
Orientation: palm in
Location: nose
Movement: press nostrils together, then change to G handshape and move hand up head, ending with hand on top of head, palm out

green

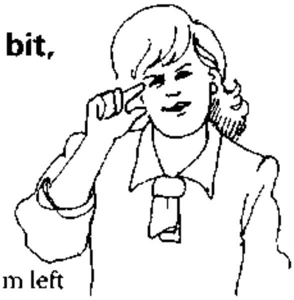


Handshape: G
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hand up and down several times

quiz

Handshape: G
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: trace the shape of a question mark with fingers, ending with palm down

small, little bit, slight, tiny

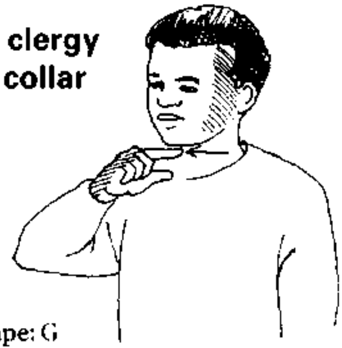


Handshape: G
Orientation: palm left
Location: near face
Movement: bring hand back slightly toward face
Nonmanual signal: "cz" mouth movement; right shoulder and head tilt to right side

turkey

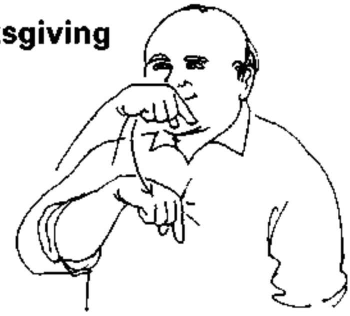
Handshape: G
Orientation: palm down
Location: chin
Movement: swing fingers back and forth twice

priest, clergy (SM); collar (DM)



Handshape: G
Orientation: palm left
Location: neck
Movement: move hand left to right across neck

Thanksgiving



Handshape: G
Orientation: palm down
Location: index finger on mouth
Movement: move hand down to center of chest

queen

Handshape: G
Orientation: palm down
Location: index finger and thumb on chest
Movement: move hand diagonally across body, ending at right side of waist

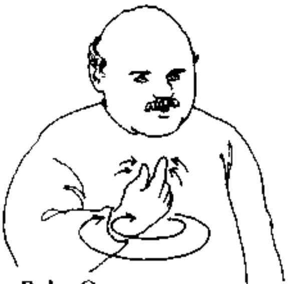
guilt, conscience, guilty

Handshape: G
Orientation: palm left
Location: below left shoulder
Movement: tap index finger and thumb against chest

what-to-do, what

Handshape: G > Baby O
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring index finger and thumb together twice
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward, head tilts right, "puzzled" expression

lots to do, busy

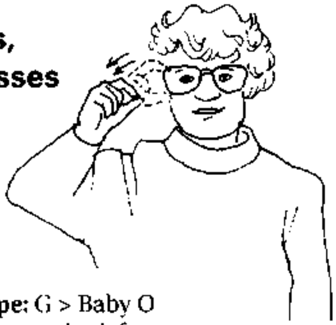


Handshape: G > Baby O
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in small circles while opening and closing index finger and thumb
Nonmanual signal: trill lips

Gallaudet

Handshape: G > Baby O
Orientation: palm right
Location: thumb and index fingertips near right eye
Movement: move hand back and close index finger and thumb

glasses, eyeglasses



Handshape: G > Baby O
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb and index fingertips near right eye
Movement: move hand right, closing index finger and thumb twice

bird, chicken

Handshape: G > Baby O
Orientation: palm out
Location: index finger against cheek
Movement: close and open index finger and thumb twice

pin (jewelry)

Handshape: G > Baby O
Orientation: palm in
Location: thumb on chest
Movement: close index finger against thumb

Thursday

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in gentle circular motion

every Thursday, Thursdays

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: move hand down

zap, got ya! (slang)

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend hand forward and back quickly

hard of hearing

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hand down from left to right

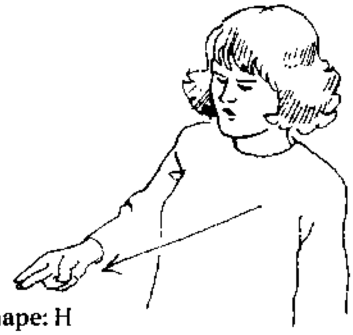
history

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand up and down twice

use, utilize, wear

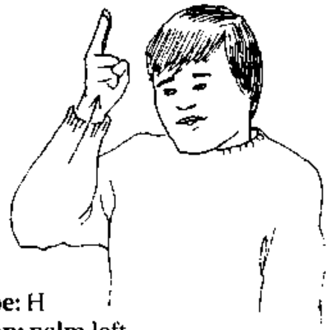
Handshape: H
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in a circle
Note: See page 237 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

hell



Handshape: H
Orientation: palm in
Location: below left shoulder
Movement: make sharp movement down across body, ending in front of right side of waist

high, inebriated, stoned



Handshape: H
Orientation: palm left
Location: near forehead
Movement: move hand up

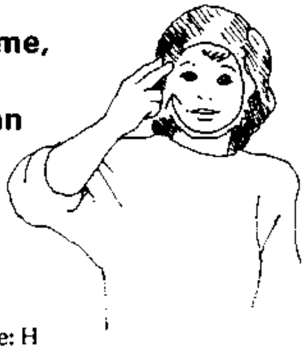
Catholic

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm in
Location: near forehead
Movement: trace shape of cross near forehead

uncle

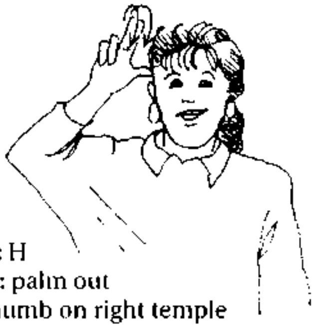
Handshape: H
Orientation: palm out
Location: near temple
Movement: brush hands down temple twice
Note: Movement may be circular.

handsome, Hawaii, Hawaiian



Handshape: H
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: circle fingers counterclockwise around face

horse

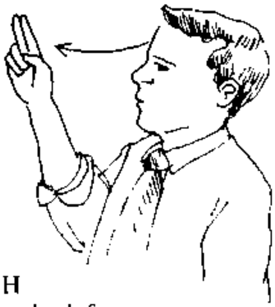


Handshape: H
Orientation: palm out
Location: thumb on right temple
Movement: bend index and middle fingers twice
Note: This may be signed with both hands, using the same handshape and movement.

Latin

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on forehead
Movement: move hand down to tip of nose
Note: See page 84 for a variation of this sign.

honor

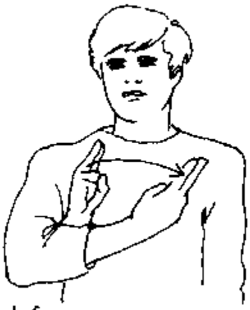


Handshape: H
Orientation: palm left
Location: index finger on forehead
Movement: arc hand forward
Nonmanual signal: head slowly moves up in reverence

necktie, tie

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm in
Location: neck
Movement: arc hand down to center of chest

us



Handshape: H
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on right side of chest
Movement: arc hand across to left side of chest, ending palm in
Note: Use this sign only when signing manual English.

hospital

Handshape: H
Orientation: palm in
Location: left upper arm
Movement: use fingertips to trace shape of cross on arm

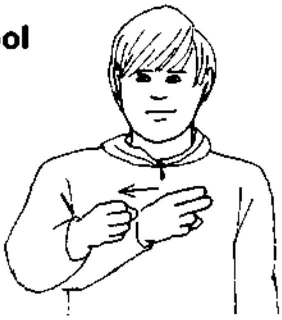
candy, cute, sugar

Handshape: H > N
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: brush fingers down chin twice, ending in N handshape

funny, amusing, comical, humorous

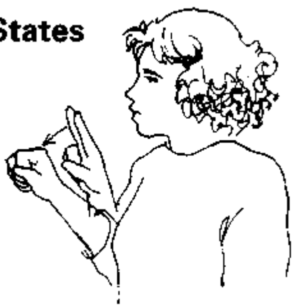
Handshape: H > N
Orientation: palm in
Location: nose
Movement: brush fingers down nose twice while bending them
Nonmanual signal: smile

high school



Handshape: H > S
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand right, closing to S handshape

United States

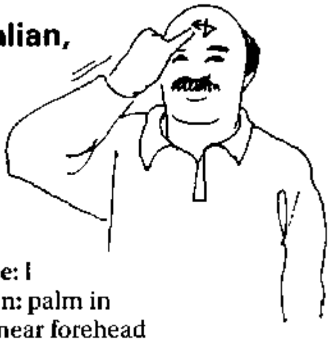


Handshape: H > S
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand forward, closing to S handshape

insurance

Handshape: I
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand slightly side to side

Italy, Italian, Pepsi



Handshape: I
Orientation: palm in
Location: near forehead
Movement: trace a cross near center of forehead
Note: See page 86 for the preferred sign for Italy.

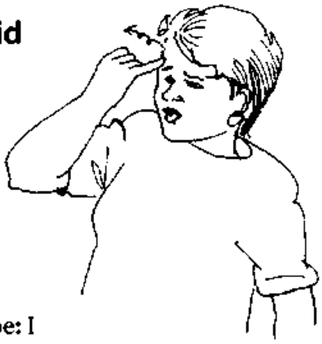
imagine, conceive, theory

Handshape: I
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertip on forehead
Movement: spiral hand forward and up

idea

Handshape: I
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertip on forehead
Movement: move hand up and out

paranoid



Handshape: I
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertip on forehead
Movement: move hand out in small spirals
Nonmanual signal: tongue protruding

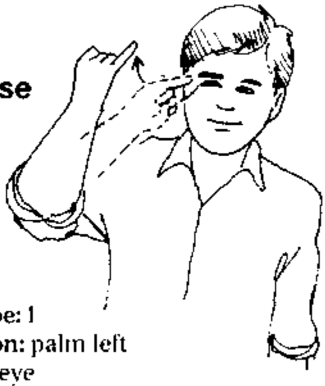
if, suppose, what if

Handshape: I
Orientation: palm in
Location: below eye
Movement: tap little finger against face twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right, "frowning" expression

jealous, envy

Handshape: I
Orientation: palm out
Location: fingertip near right corner of mouth
Movement: twist hand back, ending with palm in
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right, "angry" expression

Japan, Japanese



Handshape: I
Orientation: palm left
Location: eye
Movement: twist hand back, ending with palm in
Note: See page 249 for the preferred sign.

Israel, Israeli

Handshape: I
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: slide index finger down left side of chin, then down right side of chin

I

Handshape: I
Orientation: palm left
Location: chest
Movement: hit thumb side of hand against chest

kitchen

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand slightly side to side

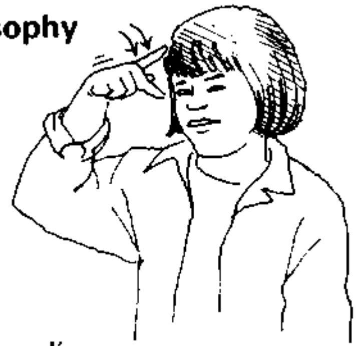
Philadelphia

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand to the right and down

purple

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hand side to side twice

philosophy

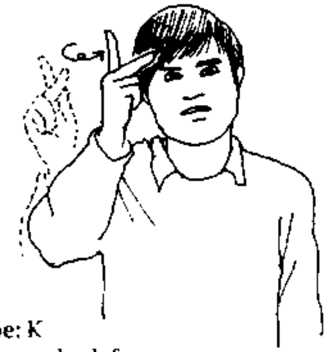


Handshape: K
Orientation: palm down
Location: near forehead
Movement: bend wrist down slightly twice

two of us, we (two)

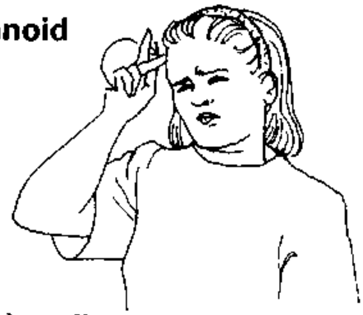
Handshape: K
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist forward and back between self and referent

politics



Handshape: K
Orientation: palm left
Location: near temple
Movement: circle hand near the head; then touch right temple with middle finger

paranoid



Handshape: K
Orientation: palm left
Location: middle finger on temple
Movement: twist wrist forward and back twice

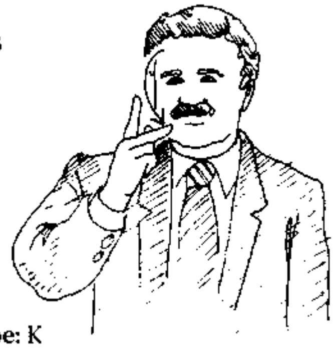
poison

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm in
Location: middle finger on chin
Movement: twist hand slightly twice

pink

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: brush middle finger down chin twice

parents



Handshape: K
Orientation: palm left
Location: middle finger on right temple
Movement: move middle finger down to right side of mouth

peach

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm down
Location: index finger on cheek
Movement: circle hand forward on cheek

cake

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm in
Location: cheek
Movement: brush cheek twice with middle finger

penis, pee, urine

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm in
Location: nose
Movement: tap nose twice with middle finger

king

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm down
Location: index finger on chest
Movement: move hand down across body, ending on right side of waist
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back, erect posture

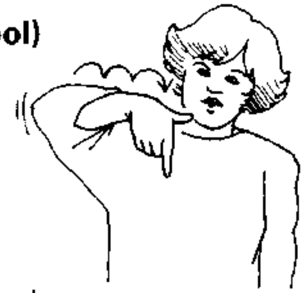
patient (ill person)

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm in
Location: left upper arm
Movement: trace shape of a cross with middle finger

personality

Handshape: K
Orientation: palm down
Location: chest
Movement: move hand in small circle, then drop thumb on chest

drill (tool)

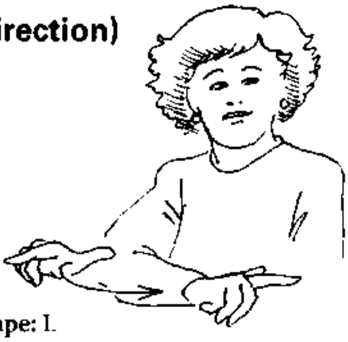


Handshape: L
Orientation: palm in, index finger pointing down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hand up and down several times while moving hand left

landlord

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm down, index finger pointing forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hand from left to right

left (direction)



Handshape: L
Orientation: palm down, index finger pointing forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand left

library

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in a circle

hair dryer

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm down, index finger pointing at head
Location: near head
Movement: move hand in a circle
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left

second, endorse

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm left, index finger pointing up
Location: above right shoulder
Movement: twist wrist forward, ending with index finger pointing forward

Latin

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on forehead
Movement: move thumb down to nose
Note: See page 77 for a variation of this sign.

Lincoln

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm out
Location: right side of forehead
Movement: tap forehead twice with thumb

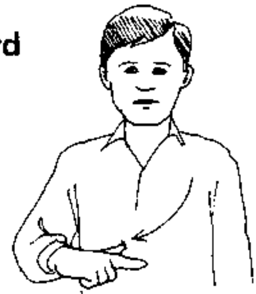
lemon

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: twist wrist and brush thumb down chin twice

lunch

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: tap chin twice with thumb

Lord, landlord

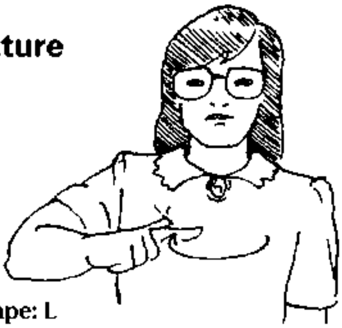


Handshape: L
Orientation: palm down, index finger pointing left
Location: thumb below left shoulder
Movement: move hand down across body, ending with thumb on right side of waist

lazy

Handshape: L
Orientation: palm in
Location: below left shoulder
Movement: tap chest twice
Nonmanual signal: mouth open, tongue protruding

legislature



Handshape: L
Orientation: palm down, index finger pointing left
Location: thumb on chest
Movement: arc hand across to right side of chest

shoot

Handshape: L > Bent L
Orientation: palm left, index finger points at referent
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend thumb down twice

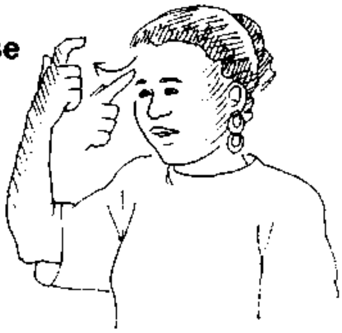
laugh

Handshape: L > Bent L
Orientation: palm in
Location: cheek
Movement: bend index finger down, brushing cheek twice

who, whom

Handshape: L > Bent L
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on chin
Movement: bend index finger down twice

because



Handshape: L > Bent L
Orientation: palm in
Location: index finger on forehead
Movement: wipe index finger across forehead to the right, then bend finger

Coke, Coca-Cola

Handshape: L > Bent L
Orientation: palm in
Location: index finger on left arm
Movement: bend thumb down twice

drink (liquor), shot (liquor)

Handshape: Bent L
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: tip hand back toward mouth
Nonmanual signal: head tips back

moon

Handshape: Bent L
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on forehead
Movement: arc hand up and to right

Italy

Handshape: Bent L > Baby O
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand down in wavy motion, closing thumb and index finger
Note: This is the preferred sign for Italy, used by Italians.

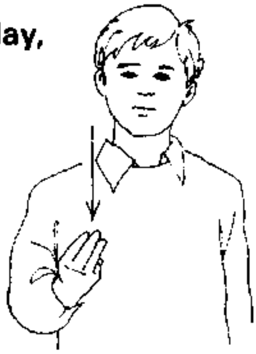
interest

Handshape: Bent L > A
Orientation: palm in
Location: near nose
Movement: move hand out, closing to A handshape
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward

Monday

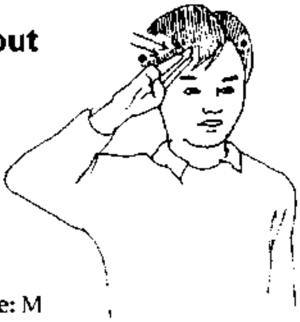
Handshape: M
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in gentle circular motion
Note: The palm may face forward.

every Monday, Mondays



Handshape: M
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: move hand down

Boy Scout



Handshape: M
Orientation: palm out, fingertips angled up
Location: near forehead
Movement: tap forehead twice with index finger

Mormon

Handshape: M
Orientation: palm left
Location: cheek
Movement: brush fingertips down cheek twice

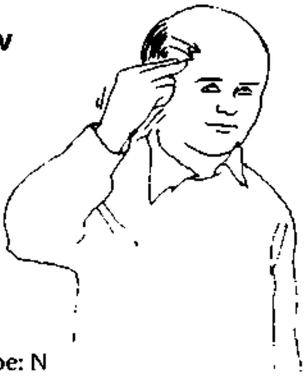
member

Handshape: M
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips below left shoulder chest
Movement: arc hand across to right side of chest

north

Handshape: N
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand up

nephew



Handshape: N
Orientation: palm left
Location: temple
Movement: twist wrist forward twice

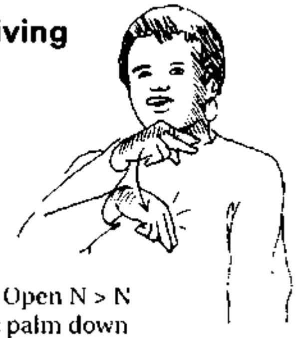
niece

Handshape: N
Orientation: palm left
Location: cheek
Movement: twist wrist forward twice

duck

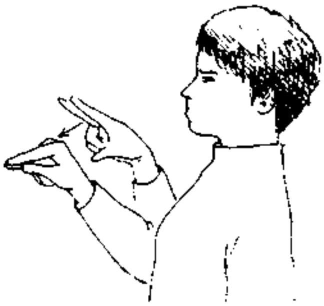
Handshape: Open N > N
Orientation: palm out
Location: cheek
Movement: close fingers to thumb twice

Thanksgiving



Handshape: Open N > N
Orientation: palm down
Location: chin
Movement: move hand down to touch chest, ending with fingers pointing down

no



Handshape: Open N > Flattened O
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: close fingers sharply to thumb
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

gray

Handshape: O
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hand around, ending with palm in

seasoning, spice

Handshape: O
Orientation: palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hand down twice

none, zip

Handshape: O
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand forward

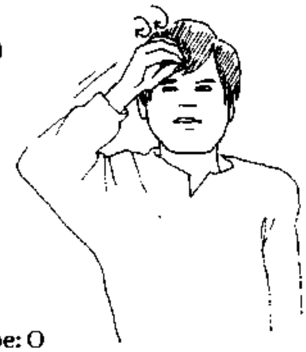
zero

Handshape: O
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand side to side

percent

Handshape: O
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand right and then down

opinion



Handshape: O
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: circle hand out from forehead twice

O ❧ 1-Hand SIGNS

orphan

Handshape: O
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb and index finger on forehead
Movement: move hand down to chin

frog

Handshape: O > V
Orientation: palm down
Location: under chin
Movement: flick fingers out into V handshape

warm

Handshape: O > 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on chin
Movement: move hand out, opening to 5 handshape, palm up

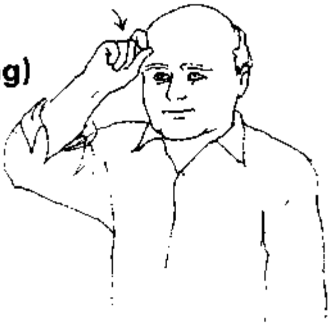
point, period

Handshape: Baby O
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply bend wrist forward

thus, therefore

Handshape: Baby O
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: draw top part of a triangle

cap (clothing)

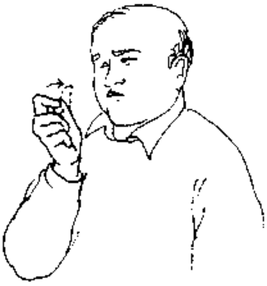


Handshape: Baby O
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: move hand down slightly

cold (virus)

Handshape: Baby O
Orientation: palm in
Location: nose
Movement: brush fingers down each side of nose twice
Nonmanual signal: droopy eyes

a little, slightly

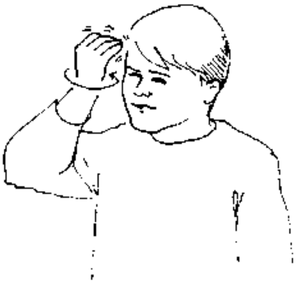


Handshape: Baby O > A
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick thumb off index finger twice
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder raised

tattle

Handshape: Baby O > 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand out, flicking index finger out

ponder, cogitate, deliberate, mull over



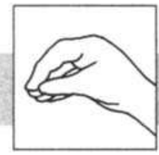
Handshape: Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: near forehead
Movement: circle hand while randomly tapping fingertips on thumb
Nonmanual signal: "pensive" expression

flower

Handshape: Flattened O
Orientation: palm left
Location: right side of nose
Movement: arc hand around to left side of nose

home

Handshape: Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: bounce hand up right cheek



kiss

Handshape: Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: twist the wrist out and move hand toward referent

eat (SM); food (DM)

Handshape: Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: double bounce hand against mouth

give, supply

Handshape: Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: bend wrist out, ending with palm up
Note: See page 258 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

own

Handshape: Flattened O
Orientation: palm left
Location: chest
Movement: hit hand against chest

send, dispatch, mail to

Handshape: Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand out while opening to 5 handshape

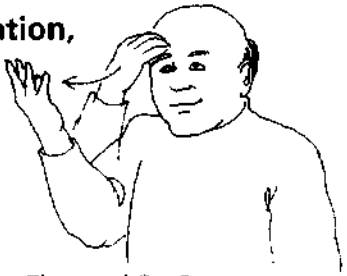
lamp, light

Handshape: Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: drop hand down toward face while opening to 5 handshape

shower

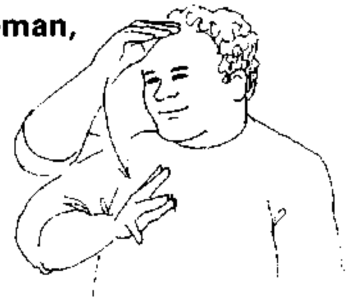
Handshape: Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: bend hand down toward face while flicking fingers open twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left

inform, information, news, notify



Handshape: Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: forehead
Movement: drop hand down and out while opening to 5 handshape

gentleman, man



Handshape: Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: move hand down to chest while opening to 5 handshape

ignore, disregard, don't care, indifferent

Handshape: Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: nose
Movement: twist hand sharply out while opening to 5 handshape

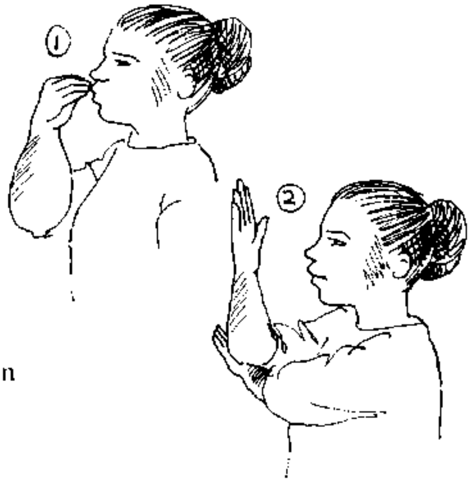
white person, Caucasian, pale

Handshape: Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: snap hand up and open to 5 handshape, ending with palm in front of face

breakfast
(compound: eat + morning)

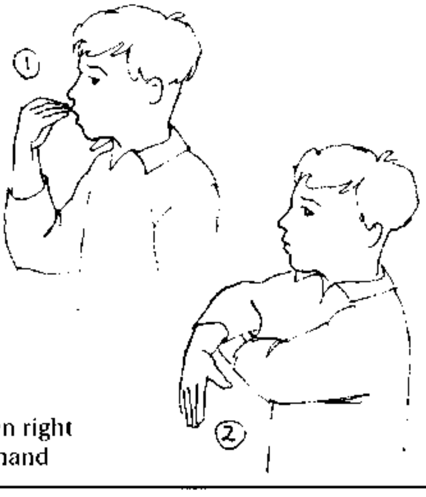
Handshape: Flattened O > Open B : passive
Orientation: palms in
Location: right hand near mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand to mouth, then place left hand inside crook of right arm and bring right forearm up

lunch
(compound: eat + noon)



Handshape: Flattened O > Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down
Location: right hand near mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand to mouth, then place right elbow on back of left hand

dinner
(compound: eat + night)



Handshape: Flattened O > Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down
Location: right hand near mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand to mouth, then open right hand while bringing right arm down over left hand

husband
(compound: man + marry)

Handshape: Flattened O > C : C
Orientation: right palm left; left palm up
Location: right hand on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, opening to C handshape, and clasp hands together

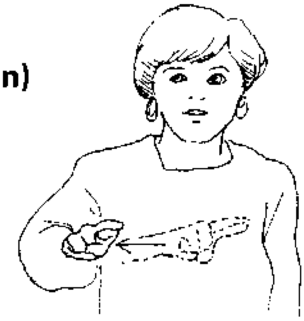
son
(compound: boy + baby)

Handshape: Flattened O > Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm up
Location: right hand on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, opening to Open B handshape, and lay right arm inside left arm

brother
(compound: boy + same)

Handshape: Flattened O > L : L
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right hand on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, opening to L handshape, and place hand on top of left hand

right
(direction)



Handshape: R
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand right

rest room, railroad

Handshape: R
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hand from left to right

reason, rational, rationale, realize

Handshape: R
Orientation: palm in
Location: forehead
Movement: move hand in small circles

rat

Handshape: R
Orientation: palm left
Location: nose
Movement: brush fingers across nose twice

respect

Handshape: R
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on forehead
Movement: arc hand out and up
Nonmanual signal: head slowly lifts up

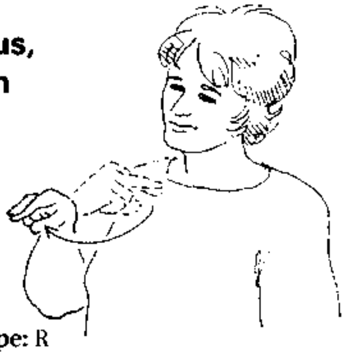
are

Handshape: R
Orientation: palm left
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand straight out
Note: Use this sign only when signing manual English.

restaurant

Handshape: R
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: brush fingers down right side of chin, then down left side of chin

religious, religion

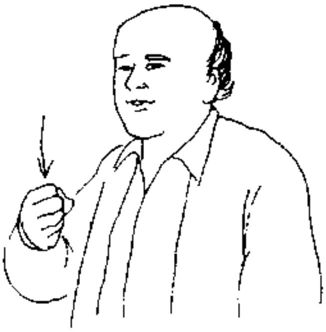


Handshape: R
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on chest
Movement: twist hand out, ending with fingers pointing forward

yes

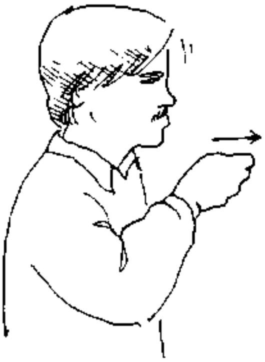
Handshape: S
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist down twice
Nonmanual signal: slight nod of head up and down

south



Handshape: S
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand down

punch, hit



Handshape: S
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: push hand out sharply

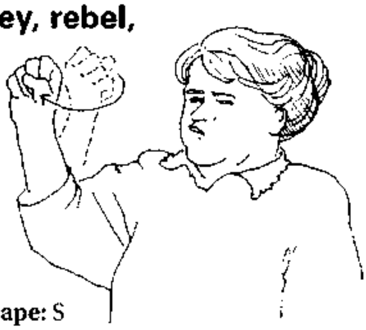
Saturday

Handshape: S
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in gentle circular motion

every Saturday, Saturdays

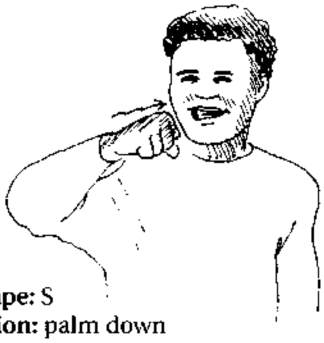
Handshape: S
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: move hand down

disobey, rebel, strike



Handshape: S
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of head
Movement: twist hand around sharply
Nonmanual signal: pursed lips

carrot

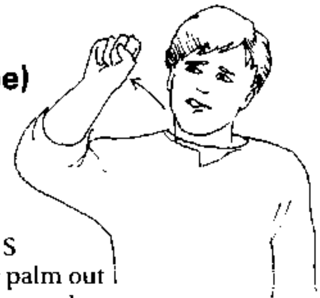


Handshape: S
Orientation: palm down
Location: near mouth
Movement: bring hand in toward mouth in slow bounces
Nonmanual signal: teeth chatter

ice cream

Handshape: S
Orientation: palm left
Location: near mouth
Movement: brush hand down chin twice
Nonmanual signal: mouth open, tongue protruding

hang (by a rope)



Handshape: S
Orientation: palm out
Location: near neck
Movement: pull hand up sharply to the right
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left
Note: See page 114 for a variation of this sign.

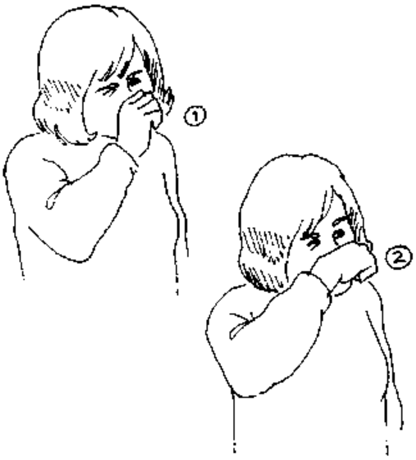
baggage, luggage, suitcase

Handshape: S
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand down
Note: This sign is similar to PURSE, which is made with an A handshape.

metal

Handshape: S
Orientation: palm left
Location: under chin
Movement: brush index-finger knuckle under chin twice

baloney, bull (slang), bullshit

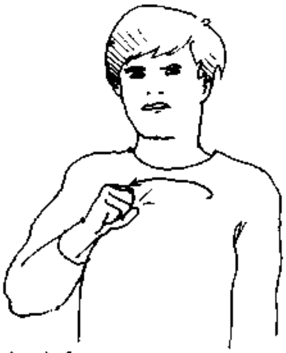


Handshape: S
Orientation: palm left
Location: nose
Movement: twist hand down twice
Nonmanual signal: "disbelieving" expression, head tilts right

cough

Handshape: S
Orientation: palm left
Location: chest
Movement: bounce hand off chest twice
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; "sick" expression

Senate



Handshape: S
Orientation: palm left
Location: below left shoulder
Movement: arc hand across to right side of chest

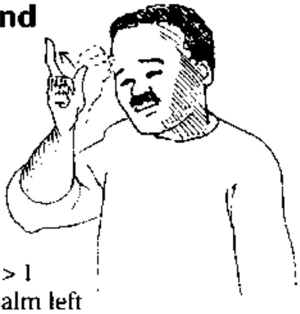
tough, gang

Handshape: S
Orientation: palm right
Location: below right shoulder
Movement: brush hand down against chest twice
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder raises and leans forward; "tough-guy" expression

throw (away), discard

Handshape: S > H
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick fingers open to H handshape while moving hand forward

understand, comprehend

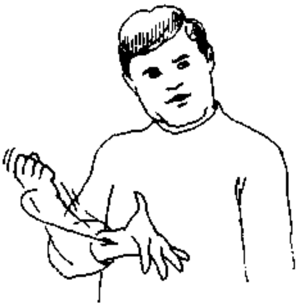


Handshape: S > 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: temple
Movement: flick index finger up as hand moves out slightly

drop, forget it

Handshape: S > 5
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist down and flick fingers out

gamble



Handshape: S > 5
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand slightly side to side, then throw it down, flicking fingers out

nothing, deny (not true)

Handshape: S > 5
Orientation: palm down
Location: under chin
Movement: thrust hand out while flicking fingers out
Nonmanual signal: head and shoulders thrust back; head shakes "no"

poetry (ASL)

Handshape: S > 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: arc hand out, opening to 5 handshape

toilet, bathroom, rest room

Handshape: T
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand slightly side to side

Tuesday

Handshape: T
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in gentle circular motion

every Tuesday, Tuesdays

Handshape: T
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: move hand down

tan

Handshape: T
Orientation: palm out
Location: cheek
Movement: move hand down cheek

twins

Handshape: T
Orientation: palm left
Location: left side of chin
Movement: bounce hand around to right side of chin

Thursday

Handshape: T > H
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hand around, changing to H handshape

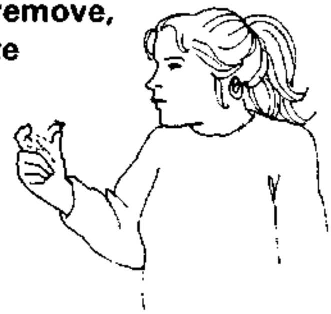
every Thursday, Thursdays

Handshape: T > H
Orientation: palm left
Location: in front of face
Movement: move hand down while changing into H handshape

fast, immediate, rapid, right away, suddenly, swift

Handshape: T > Bent L
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend hand forward while flicking thumb off index finger

delete, remove, eliminate



Handshape: T > Bent L
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick thumb off index finger

look, gaze, observe, watch, witness, view

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand toward referent
Nonmanual signal: eyes follow referent

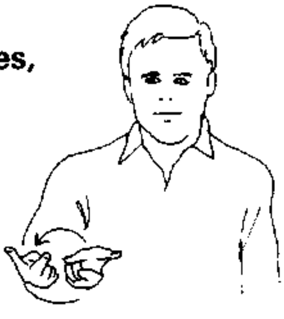
contempt, disdain, disrespect, look down on, scorn

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist down, ending with fingers angled down
Nonmanual signal: head and eyes lowered; "patronizing" expression

vanilla, vitamin

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand slightly side to side

switch, trade places, vice-versa

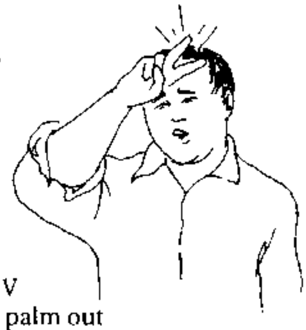


Handshape: V
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip hand over, ending with palm up

misunderstand, misconception

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm out
Location: index finger on forehead
Movement: flip hand over, ending with middle finger on forehead
Nonmanual signal: head back; mouth open; tongue protruding

ignorant, dumb, stupid

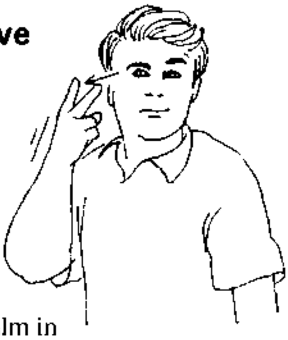


Handshape: V
Orientation: palm out
Location: forehead
Movement: smack hand sharply against forehead
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue protruding

hindsight

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm down
Location: near eye
Movement: arc hand back toward ear

see, perceive



Handshape: V
Orientation: palm in
Location: near eye
Movement: move hand out to the left
Nonmanual signal: eyes follow fingers toward referent

speechread, lipread

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm in
Location: near mouth
Movement: shake hand side to side

careless, reckless

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm left
Location: near face
Movement: move hand across face twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; mouth open; tongue protruding
Note: Sign may be formed with both hands moving past each other in front of the face.

smoke (v.)

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand out and back twice
Nonmanual signal: mouth in sucking position

stuck, trapped

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm in
Location: neck
Movement: poke neck with index and middle fingers
Nonmanual signal: head back; mouth open; tongue protruding

voice

Handshape: V
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on neck
Movement: brush fingers up and off neck

scissors

Handshape: V > H
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: close and open fingers several times

haircut *(barber, beautician)*

Handshape: V > H
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: close and open fingers while moving hand back along hairline

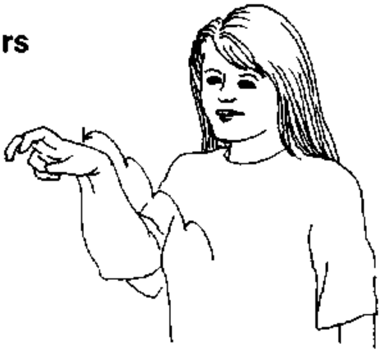
pizza

Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: zigzag hand down

tour, journey, travel, trip

Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in a circle

stairs



Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: spiral hand up in small arcs

snake

Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm in
Location: near mouth
Movement: twist hand around and move hand down in a wavy motion

blind

Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm in
Location: near eyes
Movement: bring hand in to eyes

speech, oral

Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm in
Location: near mouth
Movement: circle mouth with index and middle fingers

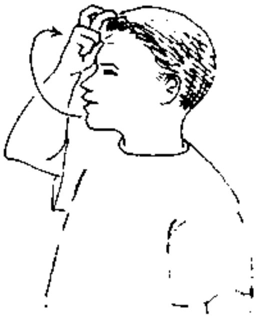
doubt, cynical, don't believe, skeptical

Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm in
Location: near eyes
Movement: bend fingers down twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; "disbelieving" expression

nervy, nerve, rude

Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm out
Location: knuckles on cheek
Movement: swing wrist out and to the left
Nonmanual signal: "annoyed" expression

goat



Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on chin
Movement: arc hand up, ending with bent fingertips on forehead

strict, stern

Handshape: Bent V
Orientation: palm left
Location: near nose
Movement: sharply tap index finger against nose
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture; "stern" expression

gum, chewing gum

Handshape: Bent V > V
Orientation: palm left
Location: fingertips on cheek
Movement: straighten and bend fingers twice

west

Handshape: W
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand left

Wednesday

Handshape: W
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in gentle circular motion

every Wednesday, Wednesdays

Handshape: W
Orientation: palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: move hand down

baptism, christening

Handshape: W
Orientation: palm out
Location: forehead
Movement: tap forehead twice with index finger
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left

weird

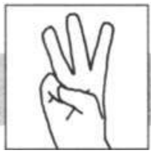
Handshape: W
Orientation: palm left
Location: right side of face
Movement: bend fingers down and up while moving hand left
Nonmanual signal: "scornful" expression

wine

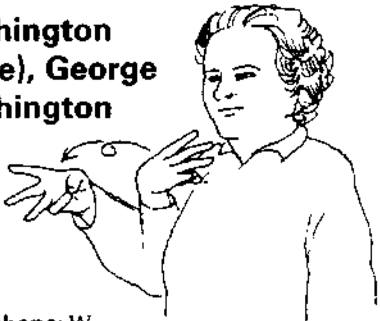
Handshape: W
Orientation: palm left
Location: cheek
Movement: move hand in small circle

water

Handshape: W
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: double bounce index finger against chin



Washington (state), George Washington



Handshape: W
Orientation: palm in
Location: near shoulder
Movement: spiral hand out, ending with palm left

we

Handshape: W
Orientation: palm left
Location: below right shoulder
Movement: arc hand across to left side of chest, ending with palm in
Note: Use this sign only when signing manual English.

ocean, river (compound: water + waves)

Handshape: W > Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right index finger on chin; left hand in neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger against chin, then bring hand down, opening to Open B handshape and move both hands forward in wavy motion

flood (compound: water + rise)

Handshape: W > Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right index finger on chin; left hand in neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger against chin, then bring hand down, opening to Open B handshape, palm down, and raise hands

pond
(compound: water + circular body)

Handshape: W > Bent L : Bent L
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index finger on chin; left hand in neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger against chin, then bring hand down, opening to Bent L handshape, palms facing, and move hands apart to show size of pond

celebrate, cheer, hurray, triumph, victory

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm in
Location: near shoulder
Movement: move hand in a circle
Nonmanual signal: "happy" expression
Note: See page 255 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

give, acquiesce, donate

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend arm down

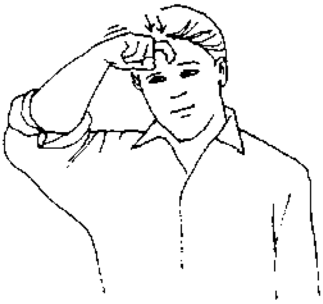
must, have to, obligated to, ought, should (SM); need, necessary, vital (DM)

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist down

fool, sucker

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm in
Location: near mouth
Movement: double bounce hand in
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue protruding

wise



Handshape: X
Orientation: palm down
Location: forehead
Movement: double bounce hand down

eagle

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm out
Location: nose
Movement: tap nose twice with index finger

Egypt

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm out
Location: forehead
Movement: double bounce hand on forehead

doll

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm left
Location: nose
Movement: brush index finger down nose twice

addiction, hooked

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm in
Location: index finger on side of mouth
Movement: pull index finger sharply to right
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; mouth open; tongue protruding

recently, a little while ago, lately

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm in
Location: index finger on cheek
Movement: bend index finger slightly against cheek
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts up; head tilts right; "cz" mouth movement

chewing gum, gum

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm out
Location: index finger on cheek
Movement: move index finger in a small circle

envious

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm in
Location: index finger between teeth
Movement: twist hand slightly side to side
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; right shoulder leans forward; eyes lower

china, glass

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: tap index finger against front teeth twice

hearing aid

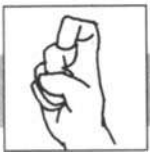
Handshape: X
Orientation: palm out
Location: ear
Movement: double bounce hand against ear

dry, boring, dull

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: wipe index finger across chin to the right
Nonmanual signal: "pained" expression

sex

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm out
Location: index finger on temple
Movement: bounce hand down to lower cheek



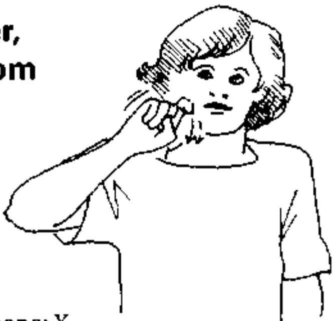
apple

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm down
Location: index finger against cheek
Movement: twist hand slightly forward twice

onion

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm out
Location: index finger on corner of right eye
Movement: twist hand slightly forward twice

rubber, condom



Handshape: X
Orientation: palm out
Location: cheek
Movement: brush side of index finger down cheek twice

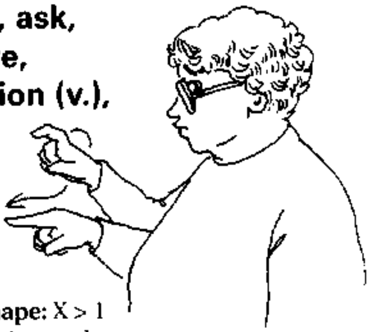
metal

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm left
Location: under chin
Movement: brush index finger off chin twice

detective

Handshape: X
Orientation: palm down
Location: below left shoulder
Movement: brush index finger down chest twice

query, ask, inquire, question (v.), quiz



Handshape: X > 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: use index finger to draw a question mark, changing to 1 handshape

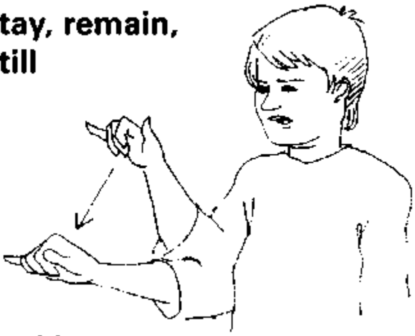
oh, I see

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand down
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; mouth open; eyes widen

yellow

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrist back and forth several times

stay, remain, still



Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand down sharply

me too, in common, same

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move arm out and back toward referent twice

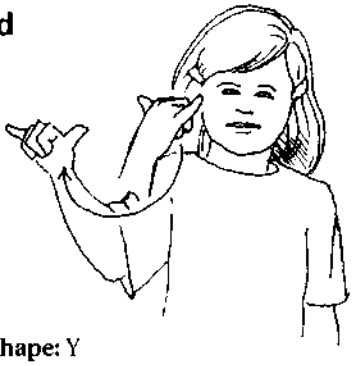
cow

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm out
Location: thumb on right temple
Movement: bend wrist down and up twice
Note: See page 302 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

drunk

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm left
Location: right side of face
Movement: move hand across face, ending with palm down

blond



Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm left
Location: right side of head
Movement: turn hand out and to the right

telephone (n.), phone (n.) (SM); telephone (v.), phone (v.) (DM)

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb at ear and little finger at mouth
Movement: double bounce hand on cheek

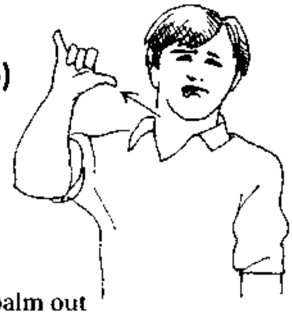
Holland, Dutch, The Netherlands

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb at forehead
Movement: arc thumb down and off nose

silly, absurd, folly, foolish, ridiculous

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm left
Location: near nose
Movement: brush thumb across nose twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; mouth open; tongue protruding

hang (by a rope)



Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm out
Location: neck
Movement: pull hand up sharply to right
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left; mouth open; tongue protruding
Note: See page 98 for a variation of this sign.

shave

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on left cheek
Movement: slide thumb across chin and up right cheek

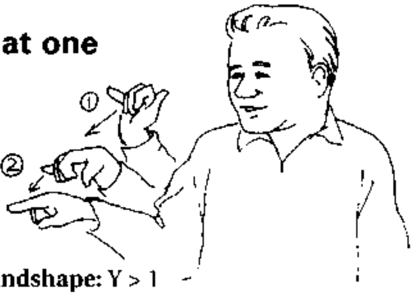
error, wrong (SM); mistake, incorrect (DM)

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: hit knuckles against chin
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue protruding

yesterday

Handshape: Y
Orientation: palm out
Location: thumb near mouth
Movement: arc thumb back, touching cheek below ear
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts; head tilts right; "cz" mouth movement

that one



Handshape: Y > 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand forward and down, changing to 1 handshape, palm down
Nonmanual signal: change from "th" mouth to open mouth as head tilts back

I love you

Handshape: L-I
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand slightly side to side

fly (SM); airplane, airport, plane *(pilot, flier, aviator)* (DM)

Handshape: L-I
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand to the right

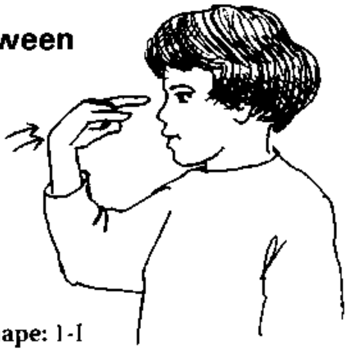
why

Handshape: L-I
Orientation: palm in
Location: near forehead
Movement: bend middle two fingers down and up several times
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; "curious" expression
Note: See page 59 for a variation of this sign.

gold, California

Handshape: L-I
Orientation: palm left
Location: index finger at ear
Movement: swing hand around, changing to Y handshape, palm down

Halloween



Handshape: 1-I
Orientation: palm in
Location: near eyes
Movement: double bounce hand in toward eyes

kid

Handshape: 1-I
Orientation: palm down
Location: under nose
Movement: twist wrist down twice

stuck-up, conceited, high society, snob

Handshape: 1-I
Orientation: palm left
Location: index fingertip under nose
Movement: brush index finger up tip of nose twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back

sophisticated, prim

Handshape: 1-I
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: brush index finger up chin twice
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

one

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: hold hand out

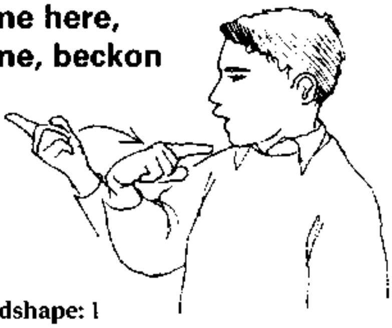
walking (one person)

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hand forward

go!

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend hand out and down sharply, ending with palm down

come here, come, beckon

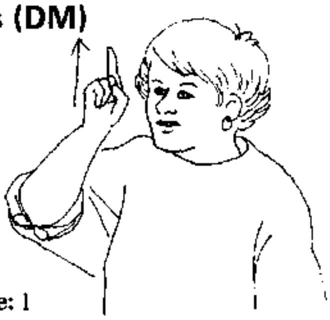


Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrist back, ending with index finger pointing toward chest

roam, wander

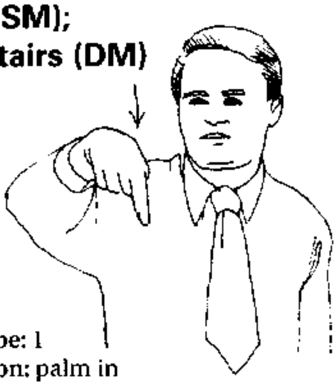
Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: meander hand forward

up (SM); upstairs (DM)



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: move hand up

down (SM); downstairs (DM)



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand down

there, over there

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hand toward referent

far, cannon

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: jab index finger sharply forward and back

where

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hand side to side
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; "questioning" frown

comma

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: trace shape of a comma with index finger

you

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: jab finger toward referent
Nonmanual signal: eyes on referent

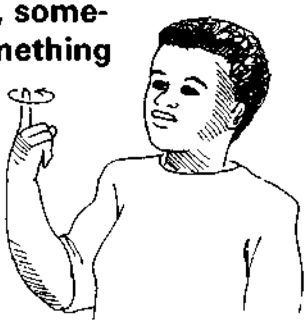
they, them

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc index finger from left to right toward referents
Nonmanual signal: eyes on person to whom you are speaking

she, he, her, him, it

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: point index finger at referent
Nonmanual signal: eyes on person to whom you are speaking

someone, somebody, something

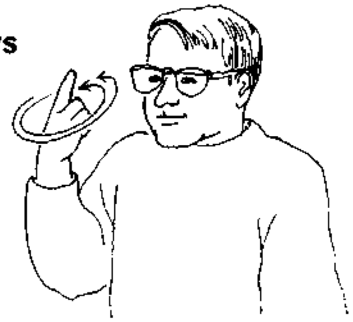


Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in small circle

only one, sole

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hand down and around, ending with palm in

always



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: make two large circles with hand

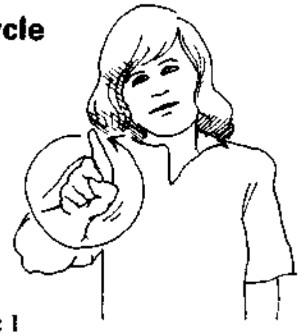
one dollar

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hand around, ending with palm in

scold, reprimand

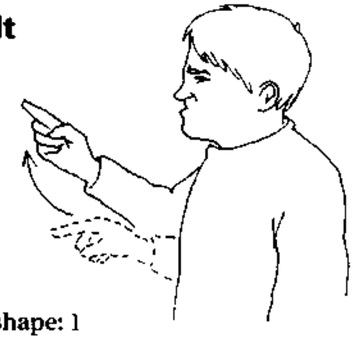
Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: wag hand twice
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; "frowning" expression

circle, cycle



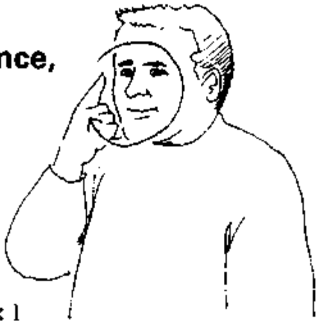
Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm angled out
Location: neutral space
Movement: draw a large circle with index finger

insult



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hand right while moving index finger sharply up and forward

face, appearance, looks

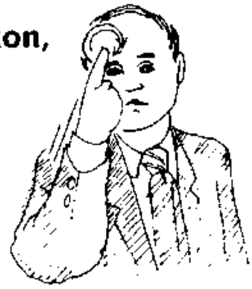


Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: make circle around face with index finger

crazy

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: near temple
Movement: circle index finger around temple

wonder, reckon, speculate, thoughtful



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: near forehead
Movement: move hand in small circles
Nonmanual signal: "pensive" expression
Note: See page 314 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

who, whom

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: near mouth
Movement: circle mouth with index finger
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; "curious" expression

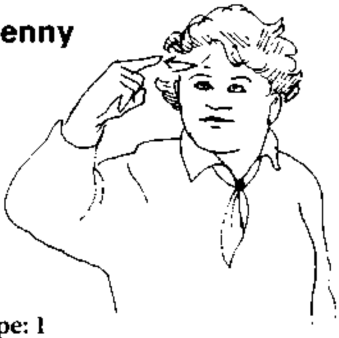
say, discourse, hearing person, public, remark, speak, statement

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: near mouth
Movement: circle hand out twice

think (SM); brain, mind (DM)

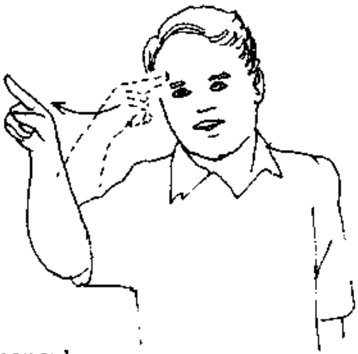
Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: temple
Movement: tap temple twice with index finger

cent, penny



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: temple
Movement: bounce index finger off right temple

for

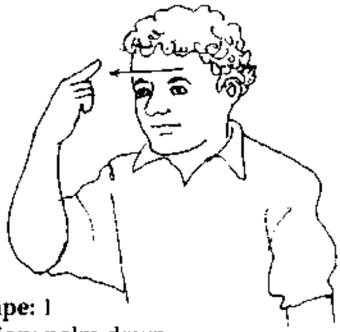


Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: swing hand out and around

intelligent, smart

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: index finger on forehead
Movement: bend wrist forward
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back
Note: See page 147 for a variation of this sign.

black



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: forehead
Movement: brush side of index finger across forehead, and twist hand back, ending with palm in

Germany

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: forehead
Movement: tap back of hand against forehead twice
Note: This is the preferred sign for Germany, used by Germans.

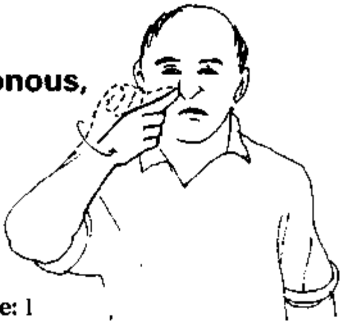
deaf

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: index finger at corner of mouth
Movement: arc index finger back and tap near ear
Note: This sign can be made ear to chin. See page 129 for a variation of this sign.

hear (SM); sound (DM)

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: ear
Movement: tap index finger on ear twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left

boring, monotonous, tedious

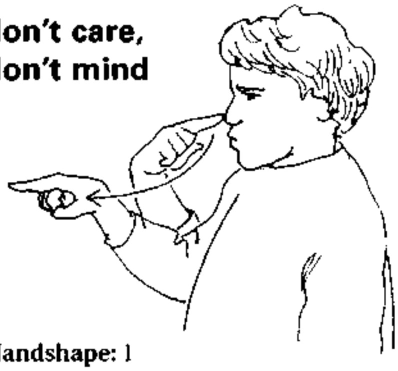


Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: index fingertip on nose
Movement: twist hand in
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue protruding

mouse

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: nose
Movement: brush tip of nose twice with index finger

don't care, don't mind



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: index fingertip on nose
Movement: swing hand out and around

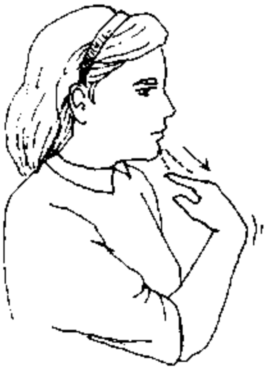
false, fake (SM); artificial, mock (adj.) (DM)

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: nose
Movement: bend wrist down so index finger brushes past nose

tooth

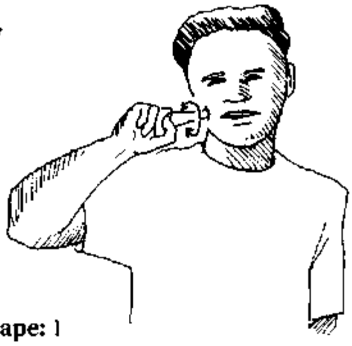
Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: point index finger at front teeth

red



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: mouth
Movement: brush index finger down chin

candy



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: index finger on cheek
Movement: twist hand forward and back twice

sour, bitter

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: index fingertip on chin
Movement: twist wrist left
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; "sour" expression

single (person)

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: brush index finger down left side of chin, then down right side of chin

lonely

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: mouth
Movement: brush side of index finger down mouth twice
Nonmanual signal: head and eyes lowered; "sad" expression

miss (regret the loss of), disappoint

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: hit chin with index fingertip
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; "sad" expression

tell

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: arc index finger out, ending with palm angled up

command, direct, order

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: index fingertip on lower lip
Movement: move hand right, then bend hand sharply down

didn't mean that, didn't say that

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm out
Location: near mouth
Movement: smack back of index finger against mouth
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

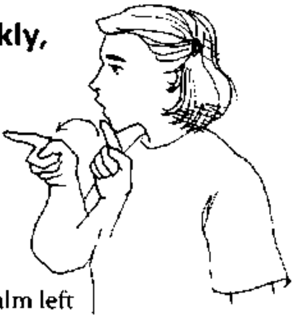
lie, fib *(liar)*

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm down
Location: right side of chin
Movement: sharply brush index finger across chin
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back and right

am, are, be

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand straight out
Note: Do not use when signing manual English.

really, frankly, truly



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: slide side of index finger up and off chin, ending with index finger pointing forward
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

absolute, actual, certain, genuine, indeed, real, sure, true

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: move hand straight out

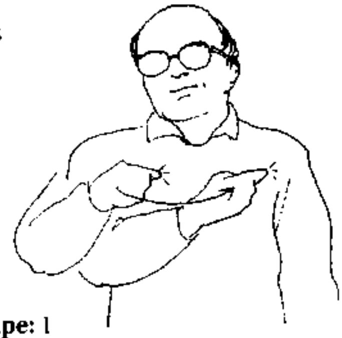
thirst, thirsty (SM); lust (DM)

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: neck
Movement: slide index finger down neck
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; "thirsty" expression

swallow

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: under chin
Movement: slide edge of index finger down neck
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back
Note: See page 326 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

we, us



Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: index finger on right side of chest
Movement: arc index finger across to left side of chest

1 ❧ 1-Hand SIGNS

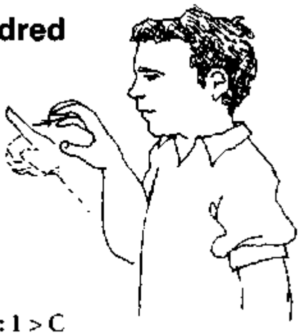
me, I

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: touch chest with index finger

China, Chinese

Handshape: 1
Orientation: palm in
Location: index finger below left shoulder
Movement: bounce index fingertip across chest, then down to waist
Note: This is the preferred sign for China, used by Chinese people.

one hundred



Handshape: 1 > C
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hand back and change to C handshape

one-half

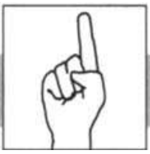
Handshape: 1 > V
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand down while changing to V handshape

huh?, really?

Handshape: 1 > X
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend index finger into X handshape twice
Nonmanual signal: "questioning" expression

government, politics

Handshape: 1 > X > 1
Orientation: palm left
Location: near head
Movement: circle index finger down, bending finger, then straighten finger and touch forehead



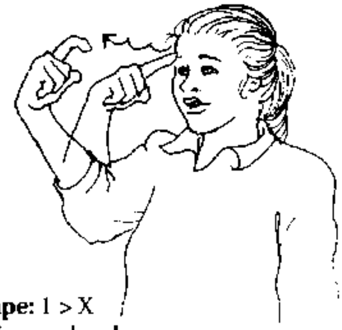
summer

Handshape: 1 > X
Orientation: palm down
Location: forehead
Movement: wipe index finger across forehead, ending in X handshape

suspect, superstition

Handshape: 1 > X
Orientation: palm in
Location: forehead
Movement: bend index finger, scratching forehead twice

dream



Handshape: 1 > X
Orientation: palm down
Location: forehead
Movement: bend index finger down and up several times while moving hand out to right

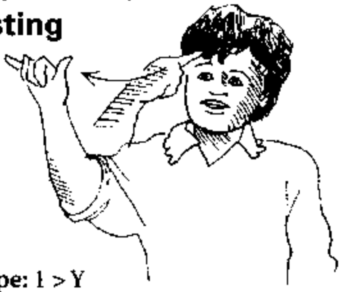
puzzled, perplexed

Handshape: 1 > X
Orientation: palm out
Location: back of hand on forehead
Movement: bend index finger to X handshape
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; mouth open; brows furrowed in puzzlement

ugly, homely

Handshape: 1 > X
Orientation: palm down
Location: under nose
Movement: slide index finger under nose, ending in X handshape
Note: See page 330 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

eternal, forever, everlasting



Handshape: 1 > Y
Orientation: palm down
Location: forehead
Movement: twist wrist forward, changing to Y handshape

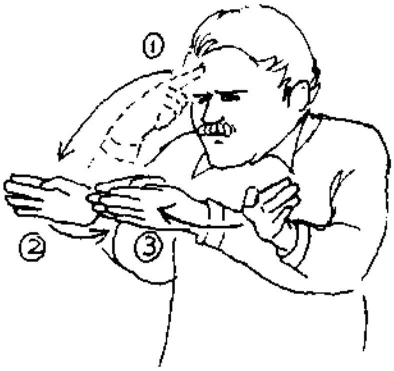
sun, sunshine

Handshape: 1 > 5
Orientation: palm out
Location: above head
Movement: draw a circle with index finger, then move hand toward head while opening to 5 handshape

broad-minded (compound: think + general)

Handshape: 1 > B : B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index fingertip on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down while changing to B handshape, palms facing, fingers touching, then swing fingers away from each other
Nonmanual signal: slightly wide eyes

narrow-minded (compound: think + narrow)



Handshape: 1 > B : B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index fingertip on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down while changing to B handshape, palms facing, hands apart, then bend fingers in toward each other
Nonmanual signal: brows furrowed, "serious" expression

witness, eyewitness (compound: eye + prove)

Handshape: 1 > B : B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: right hand below eye; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down while changing to B handshape, palm up, and slap into left palm
Nonmanual signal: lips taut, "earnest" expression

deaf (compound: hear + close)

Handshape: 1 > B : B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right index finger below ear; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down while changing to B handshape, and move index fingers together
Note: See page 122 for a variation of this sign.

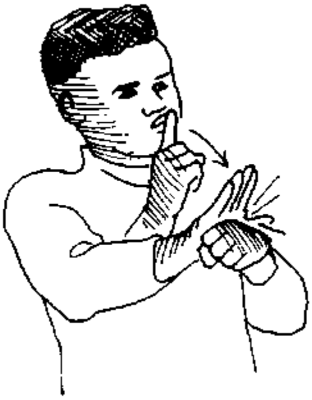
pledge, commit, guarantee, promise, vow, swear (compound)

Handshape: 1 > Open B : B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right index finger on mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, changing to Open B handshape, then bump wrist against left hand
Nonmanual signal: pursed lips
Note: See page 130 for a variation of this sign.

public school
(compound: say + school)

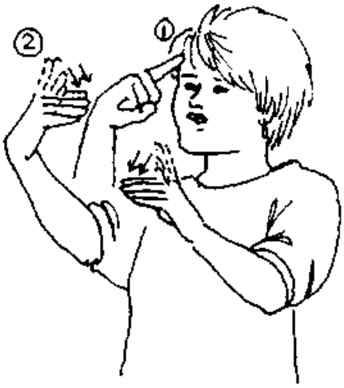
Handshape: 1 > Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left hand in neutral space
Location: near mouth
Movement: circle hand out twice, then move hand down while changing to Open B handshape and clap hands

promise, commit, guarantee, pledge, vow, swear
(compound)



Handshape: 1 > Open B : S
Orientation: right palm left; left palm in
Location: right index finger on mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, changing to Open B handshape, then slap right palm down on left hand
Nonmanual signal: pursed lips
Note: See page 129 for a variation of this sign.

anticipate, expect, hope
(compound: think + hope)



Handshape: 1 > Open B > Bent B : Open B > Bent B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index finger on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand out while changing to Open B handshape, palms facing, and bend both hands down and up twice

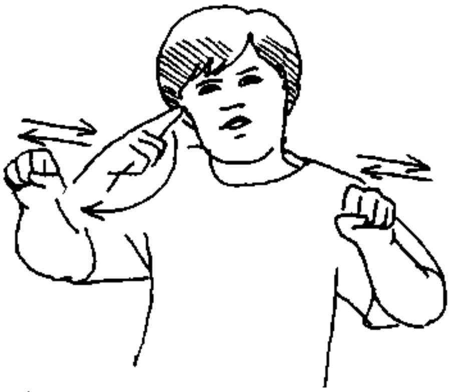
believe
(compound: think + marry)

Handshape: 1 > C : C
Orientation: right palm left; left palm up
Location: right index finger on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down while changing to C handshape and clasp hands together

decide, determine, resolve, verdict
(compound: think + judge)

Handshape: 1 > F : F
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index finger on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down while changing to F handshape, palm left, even with left hand, and move both hands down

loud
(compound: hear + noise)

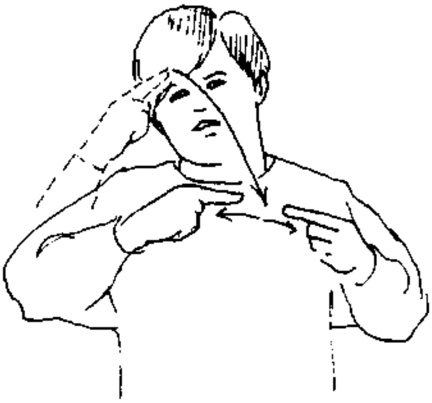


Handshape: 1 > S : S
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right index finger at ear; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, changing to S handshape, then move hands side to side in unison
Nonmanual signal: "pained" expression

noise, noisy
(compound: hear + vibrate)

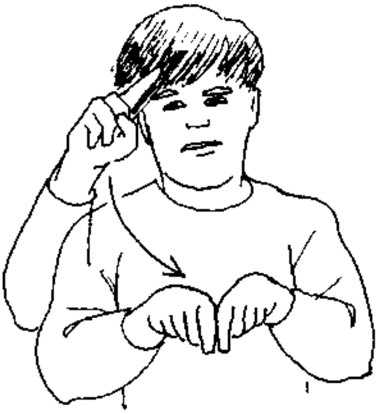
Handshape: 1 > 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down
Location: right index finger on ear; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, even with left hand, and shake both hands

disagree, differ
(compound: think + opposite)



Handshape: 1 > 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index finger on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down so index fingertips touch, then move hands away from each other

agree, concur, correspond
(compound: think + same)



Handshape: 1 > 1: 1
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right index finger on forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down so index fingers touch
Nonmanual signal: head nods "yes"

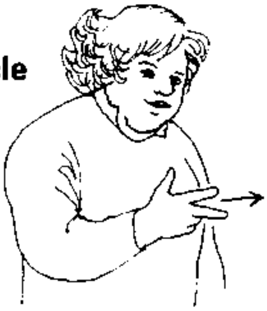
blush, embarrass, flushed (compound: red + embarrass)

Handshape: 1 > 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: right index finger on lower lip
Movement: brush right index finger down chin, then change to 5 handshape, both hands near jaw, and move hands up in front of cheeks
Nonmanual signal: "embarrassed" expression

confident, trust (compound: think + trust)

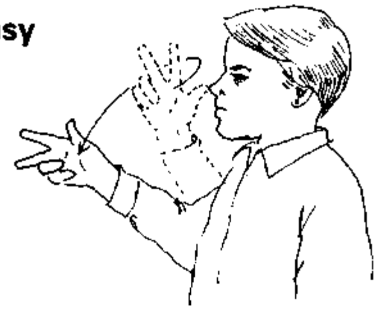
Handshape: 1 > 5 > S : 5 > S
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: right index finger near forehead; left hand in neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger on forehead, then move hand down, changing to 5 handshape, palm left, slightly above left hand; bring hands together, closing to S handshape, ending with right hand on top of left hand

vehicle, moving vehicle



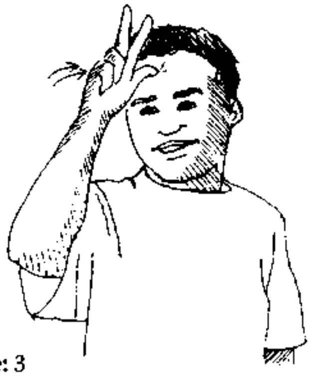
Handshape: 3
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand forward
Note: The hand moves in the direction and way that vehicle under discussion moves.

lousy



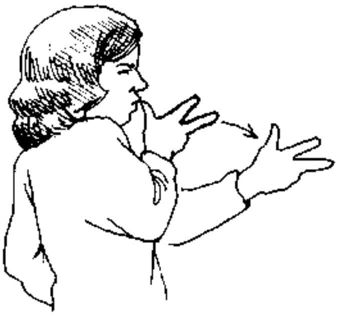
Handshape: 3
Orientation: palm left
Location: nose
Movement: loop hand to right, then bring sharply down

rooster



Handshape: 3
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: tap thumb twice on forehead

spit

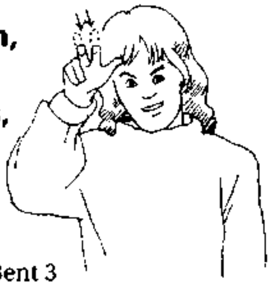


Handshape: 3
Orientation: palm left
Location: mouth
Movement: arc hand sharply out and down

receptive

Handshape: 3 > Bent 3
Orientation: palm left
Location: near temple
Movement: bend index and middle fingers as thumb touches under eye twice

devil, demon, devilish, mischievous, Satan



Handshape: 3 > Bent 3
Orientation: palm out
Location: thumb on temple
Movement: bend and straighten index and middle fingers twice
Note: See page 333 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

insect, bug

Handshape: 3 > Bent 3
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on nose
Movement: bend and straighten index and middle fingers twice

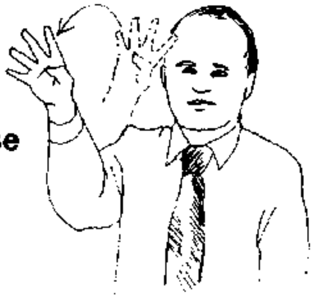
jail

Handshape: 4
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: move hand in toward face

talk

Handshape: 4
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: double bounce index finger lightly on chin

invent, create, devise, improvise



Handshape: 4
Orientation: palm left
Location: index fingertip on forehead
Movement: arc hand up and out
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back

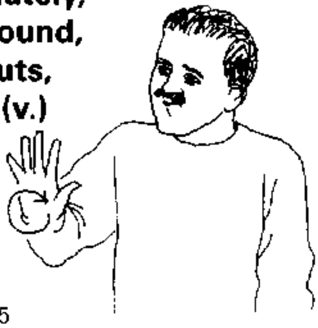
ignore, disregard, neglect

Handshape: 4
Orientation: palm left
Location: index fingertip on nose
Movement: arc hand out to side, then bring down sharply
Nonmanual signal: head tilts left

Scotland, Scotch, Scots

Handshape: 4
Orientation: palm in
Location: upper arm
Movement: brush fingers across width of arm, then flip over and brush back of hand down toward elbow

approximately, about, around, thereabouts, estimate (v.)

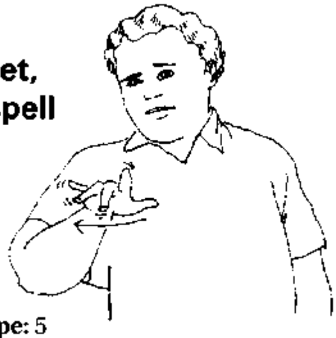


Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in a circle twice

area, around here

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in a circle twice

spell, alphabet, fingerspell



Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand in small circles while randomly wiggling fingers

long ago, former, used to be

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: near shoulder
Movement: circle hand back so thumb brushes down shoulder twice
Nonmanual signal: body leans back; "cha" mouth utterance

insane

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm down
Location: near head
Movement: circle hand around twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; mouth open; tongue protruding

lettuce, cabbage

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: head
Movement: hit head twice with heel of hand

father, dad

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: tap thumb twice on forehead

grandfather

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on forehead
Movement: bounce hand out in double arc

man, gentleman

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: tap thumb on forehead and then on chest
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

parents

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: tap thumb on forehead and then on chin
Note: This sign can be reversed.

mother, mom

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: tap thumb twice on chin

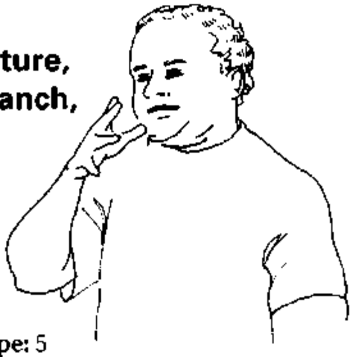
grandmother

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on chin
Movement: bounce hand out in double arc

woman, female, lady

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: chin
Movement: tap thumb on chin and then chest
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

farm, agriculture, bum, ranch, sloppy



Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: left side of chin
Movement: brush thumb across chin

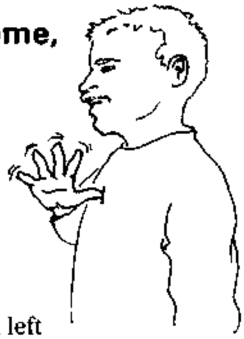
dirty, filthy, soiled

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm down
Location: under chin
Movement: randomly wiggle fingers
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue protruding

color

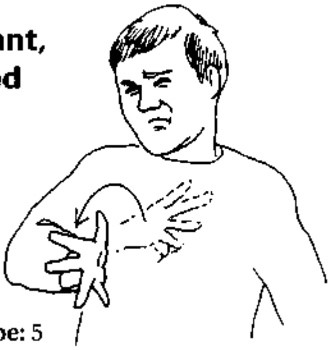
Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: wiggle fingertips randomly while tapping chin

swell, awesome, you're a riot (slang)



Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: chest
Movement: randomly wiggle fingers, keeping thumb on chest
Nonmanual signal: body leans back

indignant, appalled

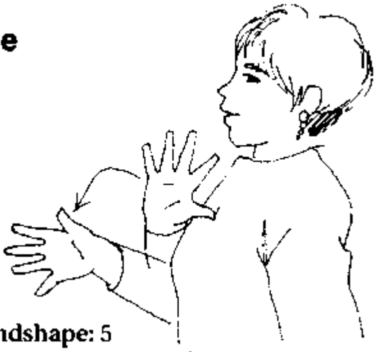


Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: thumb on chest
Movement: bend hand down sharply
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

fancy, elegant, refined, courteous

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: chest
Movement: brush thumb up chest twice
Nonmanual signal: "genteel" expression

fine



Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: chest
Movement: arc hand out and down
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back

pregnant

Handshape: 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: abdomen
Movement: move hand out

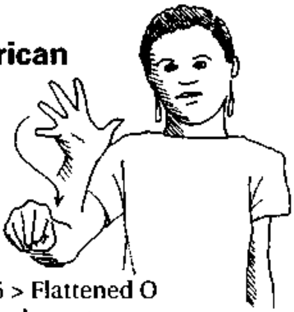
leave, go away, gone

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull hand to right, closing to Flattened O handshape

and

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand right, closing to Flattened O handshape

Africa, African



Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: swirl fingers right and down, closing to Flattened O handshape
Note: This is the preferred sign, used by Africans to refer to themselves.

asleep, nap

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: close fingers to Flattened O handshape
Note: See the following sign for the adjective form.

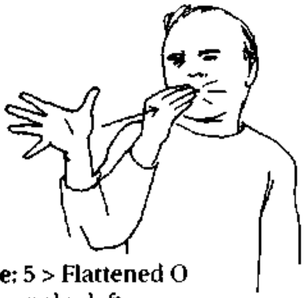
drowsy, sleepy

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: bring hand down slowly, closing fingers to thumb twice
Nonmanual signal: droopy eyes

pretty, beautiful, gorgeous, lovely

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm left
Location: near face
Movement: slowly sweep fingers around face, closing to Flattened O handshape
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back

shut up

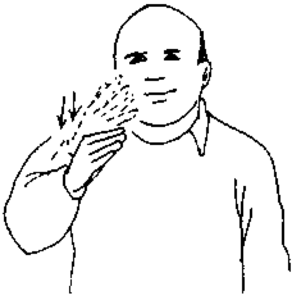


Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm left
Location: near face
Movement: sharply bring hand to mouth, closing fingers to thumb, ending with fingertips on mouth
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

Jewish, Hebrew

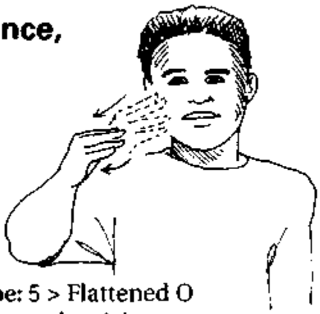
Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: brush fingers off chin twice, closing to Flattened O handshape

peach



Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: cheek
Movement: brush fingers down and off cheek twice, closing to Flattened O handshape

experience, expert



Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm right
Location: cheek
Movement: brush fingers down cheek and pull hand right twice, closing to Flattened O handshape

wolf

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: face
Movement: brush fingers off nose and mouth, closing to Flattened O handshape

catch (disease), prone to catch a disease

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm down, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand sharply in to chest, closing to Flattened O handshape
Nonmanual signal: body leans away from repelling reference; "disgusted" expression

white (object)

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: move hand out from chest, closing to Flattened O handshape

oversleep (compound: sleep + way-past-sunrise)

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O > **F** : Open B (passive)
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down
Location: right hand near face; left hand in neutral space
Movement: close fingers to thumb in front of face, then change to F handshape while moving hand under and then above passive arm

commonplace, big deal (slang), boring, nothing to it, old hat (slang), trivial

Handshape: 5 > S
Orientation: palm left
Location: left cheek
Movement: slide back of hand under chin to right cheek, closing to S handshape
Nonmanual signal: "bored" expression

channel, knob

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist arm side to side several times

crazy for (slang), crave, favorite

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: shake hand slightly side to side
Nonmanual signal: "excited" expression

dizzy

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: slowly circle face with hand
Nonmanual signal: body wobbles

grouchy, ill-tempered, irritable, moody

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: keeping hand taut, bend fingertips in and out a few times
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

lion

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm down
Location: above head
Movement: slide hand back along head
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back, erect posture

comb

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: head
Movement: brush fingertips down hair twice

radio

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: ear
Movement: twist hand side to side several times
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right
Note: See page 353 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

crazy, insane

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: near temple
Movement: twist arm back and forth several times
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue protruding

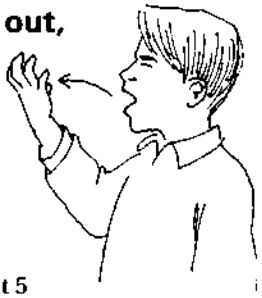
eat fruit

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: below chin
Movement: twist wrist back twice, brushing past mouth

mad, angry, cross

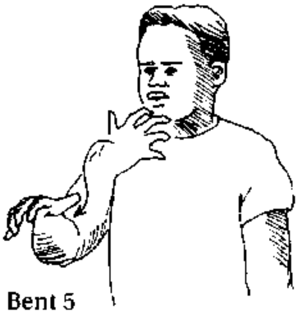
Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: near face
Movement: bring hand in to face in sharp, quick motion
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

scream, cry out, shout, yell



Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: near chin
Movement: sharply arc hand up and out
Nonmanual signal: mouth mimics a scream

hot



Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: near mouth
Movement: sharply swing hand out and around, ending palm down
Nonmanual signal: blow air out of mouth

grass, hay

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm angled up
Location: chin
Movement: brush heel of hand up and off chin twice

captain, boss, coach, general, officer

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm down
Location: shoulder
Movement: tap shoulder twice with fingertips

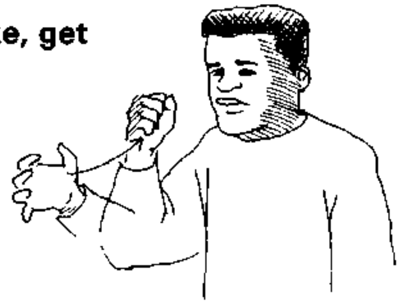
anger, fury, mad

Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: swing hand up sharply
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

disgust, nauseating, obnoxious, revolting

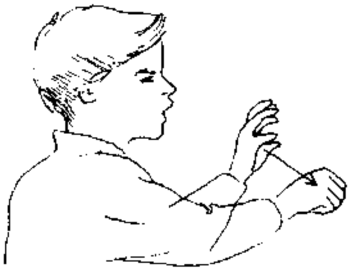
Handshape: Bent 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: move hand in small circles
Nonmanual signal: "disgusted" expression

take, get



Handshape: Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palm left
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hand in sharply, closing to S handshape

arrest, catch

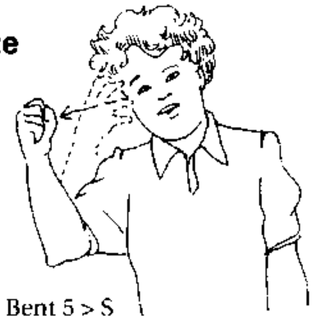


Handshape: Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand out and down, closing to S handshape

curse, swear

Handshape: Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: pull hand out sharply, closing to S handshape

memorize



Handshape: Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: move hand out to the right, closing to S handshape
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

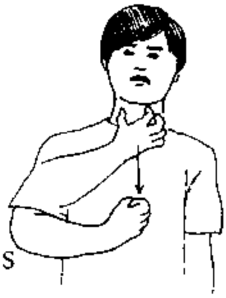
cherish, treasure, value

Handshape: Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on chin
Movement: sharply close fingers to S handshape
Nonmanual signal: "hungry" expression

gulp, oops

Handshape: Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palm in
Location: fingertips on neck
Movement: sharply close fingers to S handshape
Nonmanual signal: "embarrassed" expression

suppress, restrain (feelings)



Handshape: Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palm in
Location: neck
Movement: slide fingertips down to chest, slowly closing to S handshape
Nonmanual signal: lips taut; body taut
Note: See page 362 for a two-hand variation of this sign.

feeble-minded, senile

Handshape: Bent 5 > 5
Orientation: palm left
Location: forehead
Movement: straighten and bend fingers twice
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue prominent

warm

Handshape: Bent 5 > 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: brush fingers up and out, opening to 5 handshape

light (n.)

Handshape: 8 > Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: flick middle finger up and off chin

pest, nuisance

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: jab middle finger toward referent and back
Nonmanual signal: "annoyed" expression
Note: This sign is also used for the ASL idiom, SICK, YOU.

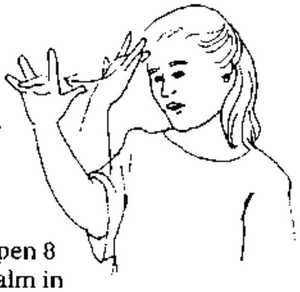
mercy, empathy, pity, sympathy

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hand forward in two small circles
Nonmanual signal: head lowered; "sad" expression

sick of it (slang)

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: middle finger on forehead
Movement: twist hand left
Nonmanual signal: "disgusted" expression

clever, bright, intelligent, smart



Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: forehead
Movement: swing hand around, ending palm out
Nonmanual signal: head tilts up and to the right
Note: See page 121 for a variation of this sign.

taste, flavor

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: lower lip
Movement: tap middle finger on lower lip twice
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; tongue protruding

favorite, prefer, rather

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: sharply bounce middle finger off chin
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

lucky

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: chin
Movement: swing hand around, ending palm down
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

tend, disposed to, tendency, inclined

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: middle finger on chest
Movement: move hand out, away from chest
Nonmanual signal: "pah" mouth utterance; body leans forward

feel, sense (SM), emotion, feeling, sensation (DM)

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: near chest
Movement: brush middle finger up and off chest in two circular motions

kind, benevolent, kindly, warm-hearted

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: below left shoulder
Movement: move middle finger in a small circle, then touch chest

touching, heartfelt, poignant

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: near chest
Movement: bring hand to chest with an exaggerated motion and touch chest
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

heart

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: near heart
Movement: double bounce middle finger on chest

sensitive

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: middle finger on chest
Movement: twist hand around, ending palm down
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts up; head tilts right; "cz" mouth movement

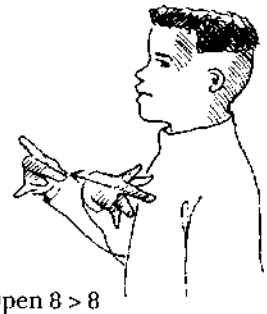
sort, kind, type, species

Handshape: Open 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: middle finger on chest, below left shoulder
Movement: arc hand across to right side of chest

delicious

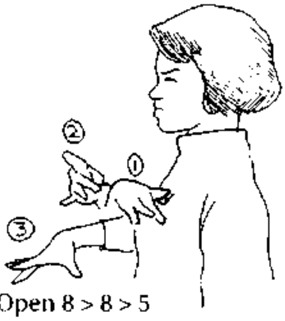
Handshape: Open 8 > 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: mouth
Movement: move hand out, rubbing middle finger and thumb together
Nonmanual signal: eyes widen; smile

like



Handshape: Open 8 > 8
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: move hand out, closing thumb and middle finger
Nonmanual signal: "happy" expression

don't like



Handshape: Open 8 > 8 > 5
Orientation: palm in
Location: chest
Movement: move hand out, closing thumb and middle finger, then twist hand around and flick middle finger off thumb

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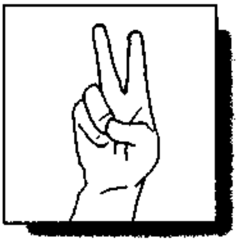
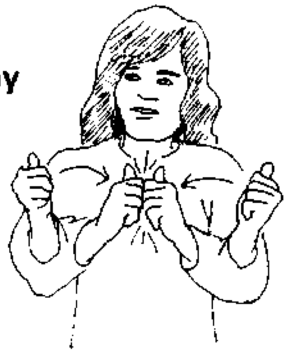


Two-Hand Signs

with, accompany



Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together

steady date, go steady

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms facing; hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hands forward

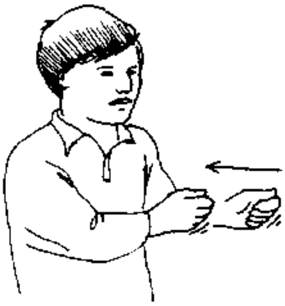
association, agency

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms out; thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands around, ending with fingers touching

area

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms down; thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: draw semicircles with thumbs, ending with thumbs touching

pull



Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms facing; left hand in front of right
Location: neutral space
Movement: tug hands toward body

golf

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms facing; right hand on left
Location: near right shoulder
Movement: swing hands down and up
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right

dig, shovel

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up toward left shoulder

cabinet

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: near head
Movement: swing hands around, ending with palms in

able, can, may (SM); ability, capable, competent, possible (DM)

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down

attempt, audition, effort, endeavor, persist, try

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up and forward
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

algebra

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush hands together twice

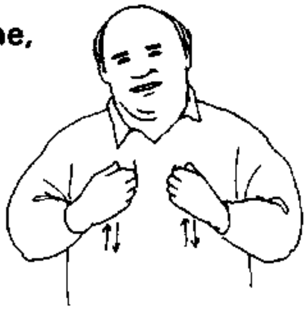
army, bear arms *(soldier)*

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms in; right hand above left
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hands on chest
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

coat, jacket, sweater

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms in
Location: thumbs on shoulders
Movement: arc hands down to chest
Nonmanual signal: shoulders hunch

bath, bathe, wash

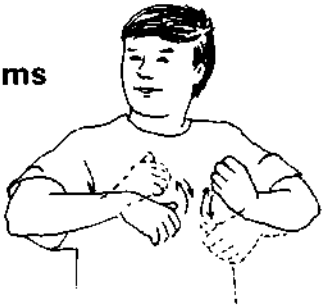


Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms in
Location: chest
Movement: brush hands up and down chest

bind, knot, tie

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands to mimic tying a knot

drum, play drums



Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists alternately up and down

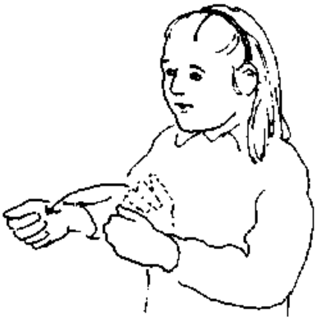
wash

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: rub hands together in circular motion

chew

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: grind knuckles against one another

pass by



Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms facing; right hand behind left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand past left hand

guitar

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms in
Location: right hand near waist; left hand near shoulder
Movement: twist right hand up and down

each (SM); every (DM)

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: right palm left, right hand behind left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down back of left thumb

zip (SM); zipper (DM)

Handshape: A : A
Orientation: palms in
Location: waist
Movement: slide right hand up chest

polish, rub, sandpaper, shine shoes

Handshape: A : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand back and forth across left palm

knock

Handshape: A : Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: knock right knuckles on left palm twice

iron, press

Handshape: A : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand back and forth across left palm

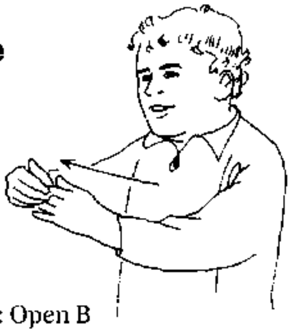
expert, adept, experienced, sharp, skill, talent

Handshape: A : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, right hand gripping edge of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull right hand sharply off left hand
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

dollar

Handshape: A : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, right hand gripping top of left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand along left hand

lead, guide



Handshape: A : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, right hand gripping left hand fingertips; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull left hand forward with right hand

turtle

Handshape: A : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down, left hand on top of right hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right thumb up and down twice

hide, conceal, take cover

Handshape: A : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right thumb on lower lip; left hand in neutral space
Movement: slide right thumb down chin and below left palm, ending with right thumb showing
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered

cracker, matzoh (passive)

Handshape: A : passive
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: right hand near left elbow; left hand in neutral space
Movement: tap right hand on left elbow twice

banana

Handshape: A : 1
Orientation: right palm down; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand down left index finger twice

practice, drill, exercise, rehearse

Handshape: A : 1
Orientation: right palm down; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand back and forth along left index finger
Nonmanual signal: body tense; head tilted left; lips taut

trick, betray, cheat, deceive, defraud, fraud

Handshape: A : 1
Orientation: right palm out, right hand behind left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply knock right hand on left index finger
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

give up, forfeit, relinquish, surrender, yield

Handshape: A > 5 : A > 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: thrust hands up, changing to 5 handshape
Nonmanual signal: head and body thrown back; "discouraged" expression

without

Handshape: A > 5 : A > 5
Orientation: palms facing; hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands, changing to 5 handshape

bless

Handshape: A > 5 : A > 5
Orientation: palms facing
Location: lips
Movement: move hands down and out, changing to 5 handshape
Nonmanual signal: head lowered

shape, figure, form, image, sculpture, statue

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle hands and move them down

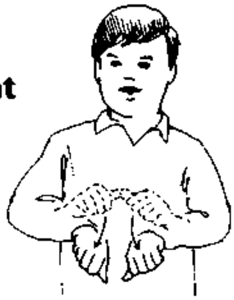
challenge, opportunity

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up, ending with palms in and fingers touching

continue, endure, ever, permanent, persevere, persist, remain, stay, still

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms down, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: slowly push hands forward

deposit, down payment



Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms down, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands, ending with thumbs down

deny (declare untrue)

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: chin
Movement: move thumbs out and down
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

live, address, alive, life, reside, survive

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush hands up chest

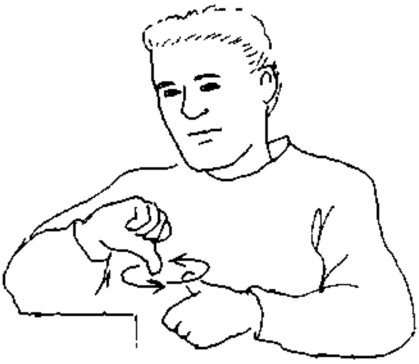
sweetheart, beau, lover

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms in, knuckles touching
Location: left side of chest
Movement: bend thumbs down and up twice

baptism, Baptist, baptize

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists to the right and back up

associate, fellowship, interact, socialize

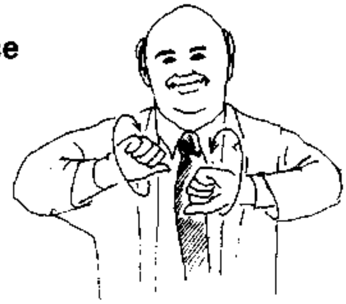


Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: right palm out, thumb down; left palm in, thumb up
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle thumbs around each other

which, or, whether

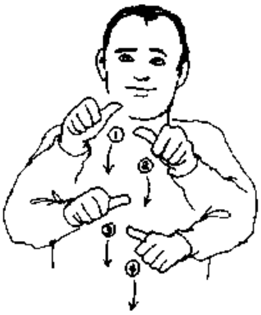
Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands up and down, alternating positions
Nonmanual signal: torso leans forward; head tilts right; eyebrows knit; lips pursed

science



Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms out, thumbs down
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands back and down, alternating positions

puzzle (game)

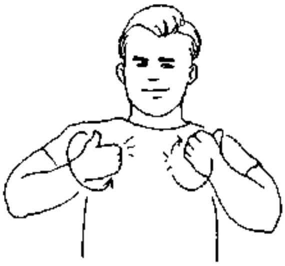


Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move thumbs down twice, alternating hands

compete, contest, race, rivalry, sports, vie

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing, knuckles touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: rotate hands back and forth, alternating positions

ambitious, assertive, aggressive



Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms in
Location: chest
Movement: brush hands against chest in circular motions, alternating positions
Nonmanual signal: lips taut; "earnest" expression

act, audition, drama, perform, play, show, theater
(actor, actress, performer)

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: chest
Movement: circle alternating hands back and down, brushing backs of thumbs against chest

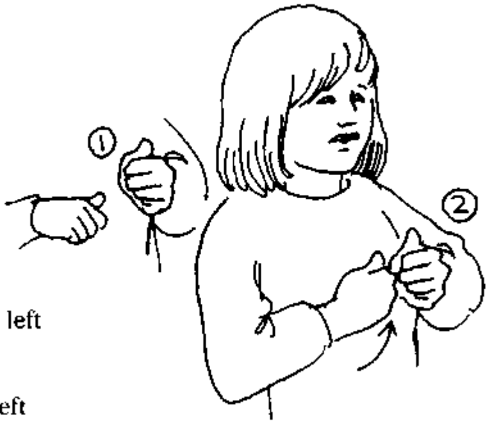
brag, show off

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms down
Location: waist
Movement: bounce alternating thumbs on waist twice
Nonmanual signal: torso leans back; chest puffs out

most

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing, knuckles touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right knuckles up and above left hand

behind, in back of

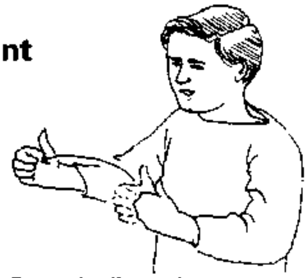


Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: right palm down, closer to body; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand up and behind left thumb

ahead

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing, right hand behind left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand past left hand

far, distant



Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing, knuckles touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand forward with an exaggerated motion
Nonmanual signal: body leans back; "cha" mouth utterance

avoid, evade, shirk

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: rapidly wiggle right hand back

chase, follow, pursue

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: right palm left, hand behind left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: spiral right hand toward left hand while left hand moves forward

remember, memory, recall, recollect, remind

Handshape: Open A : Open A
Orientation: palms down
Location: right thumb on temple; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down until thumbs touch

danger, injure, peril, threat, violate

Handshape: Open A : A
Orientation: right palm left; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right thumb against back of left hand twice
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

doorbell, bell, ring bell

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: press right thumb into left palm twice

carve, sculpt

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: dig right thumb into left palm twice

impress, emphasis, emphasize, stress

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, thumb on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hand forward
Nonmanual signal: lips taut; "earnest" expression

page, dictionary

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, thumb on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush thumb up left palm twice

letter, mail

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: right thumb on lower lip; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down, ending with thumb on left palm

surgery, operation

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, thumb near left thumb; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right thumb down left palm

help, aid, assist, benefit, rehabilitate

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: lift right hand up with left hand
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

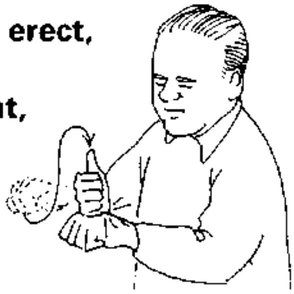
blame, fault, guilt (SM); accuse (DM)

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand sharply across back of left hand
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

establish, erect, form (v.), install, set up

Handshape: Open A : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand up and bring down on top of left hand

establish, erect, form (v.), implement, install, set up



Handshape: Open A : S
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand up and bring down on top of left hand

gasoline, gas

Handshape: Open A : S
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: insert thumb into left fist

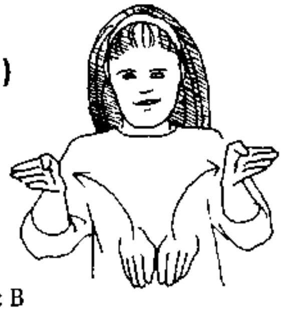
defecate, bowel movement, feces

Handshape: Open A : S
Orientation: right palm left, thumb tucked in bottom of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right thumb out of left hand
Nonmanual signal: nose wrinkled; "disgusted" expression

close, shut

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms out, arms parallel
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together

open (horizontal)



Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms down; index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up and over, ending with palms angled up

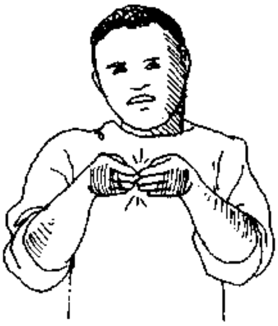
open (vertical)

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms out; index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands back, ending with palms facing

behavior

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands side to side in unison

corner

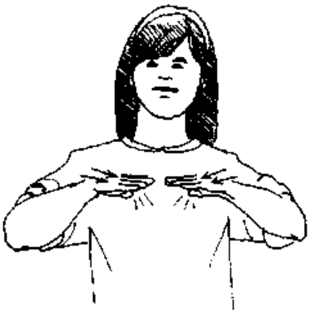


Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms facing; fingertips angled toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap fingertips together twice

quiet, calm

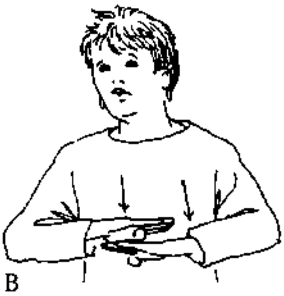
Handshape: B : B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right; hands crossed
Location: mouth
Movement: arc hands down and apart, ending with palms down
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

blanket



Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms down, fingertips facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hands against chest twice

relief

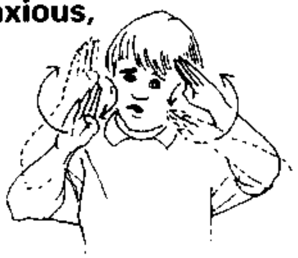


Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: chest
Movement: slide hands down chest
Nonmanual signal: lips rounded; exaggerated exhale

satisfied, content, gratified

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms down; right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap hands against chest
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; "contented" expression

trouble, anxious, cares, concern, fret, worry



Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms angled toward each other
Location: head
Movement: circle hands inward in alternating motions
Nonmanual signal: "worried" expression

window, open window

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms in; edge of right hand on left index finger
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand up and down

open door (SM); door (DM)

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: palms out, index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand back, ending with palm left

specialize, field, major (study), specialty

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: right palm left, edge of right hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand forward along left index finger
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

kick, soccer

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: right palm left, fingertips down; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand up, knocking into left hand

partial to, favorite

Handshape: B : B
Orientation: right palm in, fingertips on left index finger; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips against left index finger twice

autumn, fall (passive)

Handshape: B : passive
Orientation: right palm down, near left elbow; left arm across body
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand down left elbow twice

slippers

Handshape: B : C
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand into left hand twice

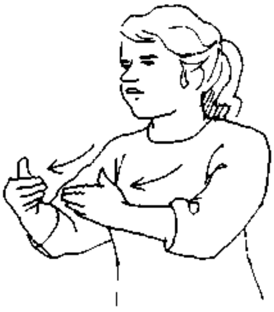
busy, business

Handshape: B : S
Orientation: right palm out; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush heel of right hand back and forth against left index finger

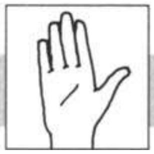
partial to (an individual)

Handshape: B : 1
Orientation: right palm left, fingertips touching left index finger; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips on left index finger twice

advance, forward, go ahead, onward, proceed



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: glide hands forward
Nonmanual signal: "mm" mouth utterance



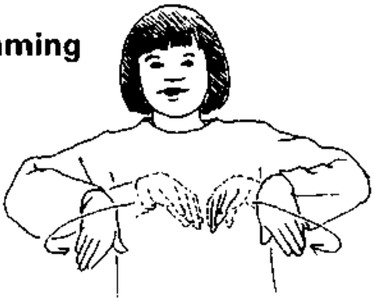
floor

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands

children

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hands apart

swimming



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down; index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands out and around

not, do not, don't do that

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, hands crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands sharply
Nonmanual signal: frown with "stern" expression

rise, arise, raise, stand up (to audience)

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: lift both hands up in unison

here, present

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands together and apart in short quick motions

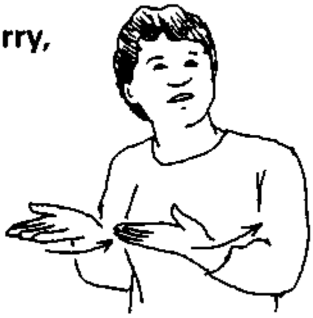
things

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up, hands close together
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hands apart
Note: See page 51 for a one-hand variation.

offer, introduce (a topic), propose, recommend, suggest

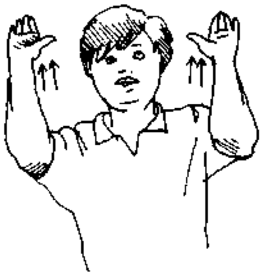
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up and forward in unison

bring, carry, deliver



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands left

volleyball



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: near sides of head
Movement: push hands up twice

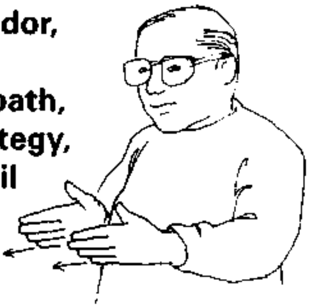
Sunday

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands out twice

attention, concentrate, focus, pay attention

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: near temples
Movement: move hands forward sharply

way, corridor, hallway, method, path, road, strategy, street, trail



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward

allow, condone, grant, let, may, permit, tolerate

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands forward and up, ending with fingers forward

person, agent, individual

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers forward
Location: in front of shoulders
Movement: move hands down

arrange, order (n.), plan, prepare

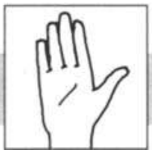
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: loop hands right
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; "thoughtful" expression

narrow

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward
Nonmanual signal: "cz" mouth utterance

wide, broad, width

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands apart
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance



encourage, cheer, uplift

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up; wrists bent back
Location: neutral space
Movement: push hands toward each other in two small motions
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

convince, cornered

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms angled up
Location: neutral space
Movement: chop hands down sharply
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

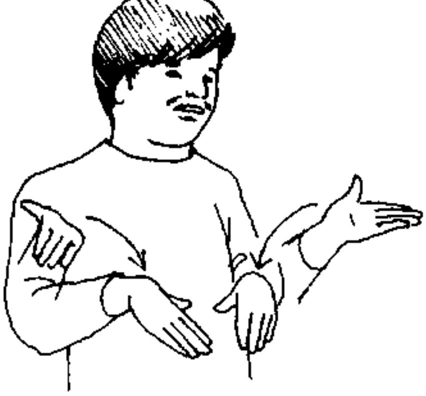
abhor, avoid, detest, hate, loathe

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: push hands sharply to left side
Nonmanual signal: body leans away from repelling reference; "disgusted" expression

introduce (person)

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands to center, ending with fingertips facing
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

bet



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip hands over with exaggerated motion, ending with palms down
Nonmanual signal: body and head lean back; eyes widen

dark, darken, dim

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in
Location: near face
Movement: cross hands in front of face
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered

compare, distinguish

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: near face
Movement: rock hands back and forth, several times

house, residence

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing; fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands apart and down

city, community, town, village

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips close together
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap fingertips together several times while moving hands left

general

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips forward and touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

hinge

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: close and open hands

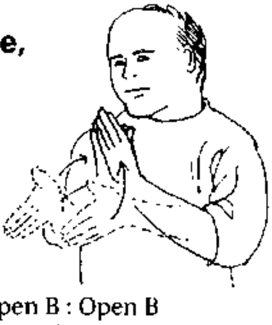
butterfly

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, hands crossed and thumbs clasped
Location: neutral space
Movement: flutter hands

boat, go by boat

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hands forward

ask, inquire, request



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists up, then bring hands together, ending with palms touching

pray, amen

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms touching
Location: near face
Movement: arc hands in toward body
Nonmanual signal: head lowers as hands move down

book, open a book

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms touching, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands, ending with little fingers touching

applaud, clap, commend, congratulate, praise

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: clap hands twice

divide, go-Dutch (slang), split

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, hands crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands apart

sandwich (SM); picnic (DM)

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand on top of left hand
Location: near mouth
Movement: move hands toward mouth twice

pants, slacks

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers down
Location: near left thigh
Movement: slide hands down in front of left thigh, then repeat motion on right thigh

prevent (me), block (me)

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand crossed in front of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit edge of left hand with right index finger, then bring hands in toward body
Nonmanual signal: body and head thrown back; "discouraged" expression

block, defend, guard, prevent, protect

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand crossed behind left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: push hands forward sharply
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

baby, infant

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand inside left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: rock arms side to side

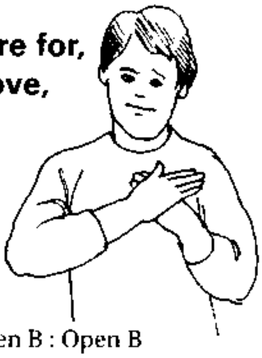
lean, drawn

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: face
Movement: slide fingers down face
Nonmanual signal: cheeks sucked in

grateful, appreciative, thankful

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in
Location: right fingertips on mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move both hands forward
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; "grateful" expression

beloved, care for, devotion, love, revere

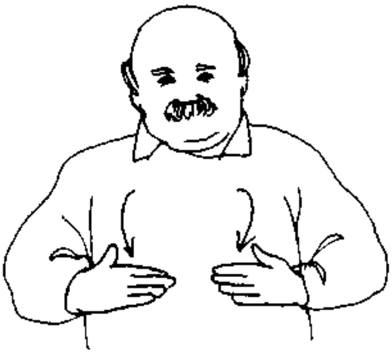


Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in; hands crossed; right hand on left hand
Location: left side of chest
Movement: rest hands on heart

rest, relax, retire

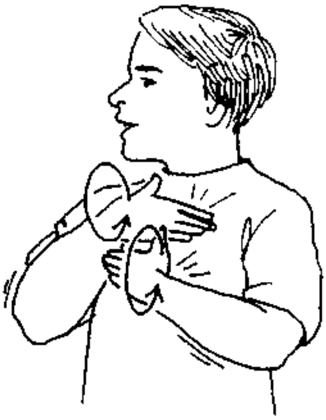
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, arms crossed
Location: chest
Movement: rest hands on chest
Nonmanual signal: "contented" expression

body, physical



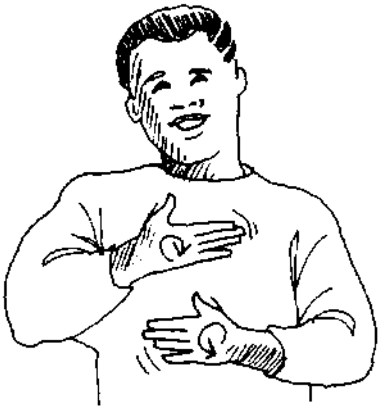
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in
Location: chest
Movement: tap fingertips on chest, then on waist

happy, delight, glad, joy, merry



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: chest
Movement: brush hands up and off chest twice
Nonmanual signal: smile

enjoy, appreciate, joy, pleasure



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: chest
Movement: move hands in small opposing circles on chest
Nonmanual signal: smile

breathe, exhale

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: chest
Movement: move hands out and back to chest twice
Nonmanual signal: chest expands and contracts; blow air out repeatedly

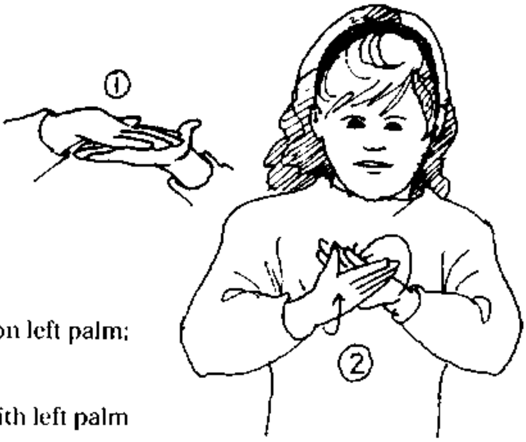
admit, acquiesce, confess, consent, give in, willing, yield

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up and forward, ending with palms angled up
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head lowered; "contrite" expression

box, package, room

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down, then bend wrists in, palms in, and move hands down

become



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip hands over, ending with left palm on right palm

peace

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on top of left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands slowly, reversing palm positions, then separate hands, ending with palms down
Nonmanual signal: "serene" expression

die, dead, death, expire

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm up; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip hands over
Nonmanual signal: "sad" expression

may, maybe, might, perhaps

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands alternately up and down
Nonmanual signal: shoulders shrug; eyes widen

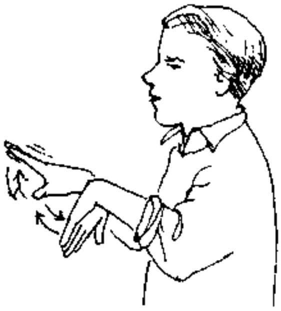
service, serve, wait on

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide hands alternately back and forth twice

serve *(server, waiter, waitress)*

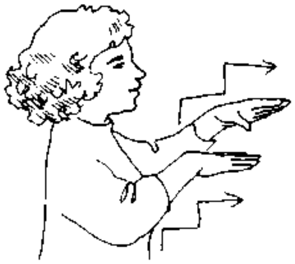
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: near head
Movement: slide hands alternately back and forth

walk



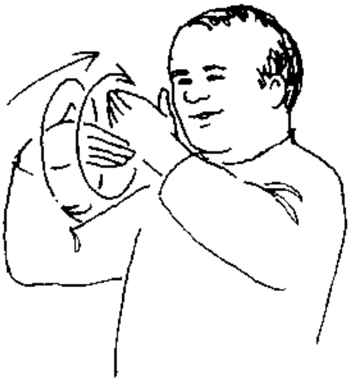
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend hands alternately up and down at the wrist

stairs, steps



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand higher than left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move left hand above right hand, then right hand above left hand, and repeat

ancestors, generations



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, one hand in front of the other
Location: near right shoulder
Movement: circle hands around each other while moving them back
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder tilts back

hands, manual

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand behind left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush back of right hand down left palm, then brush back of left hand down right palm

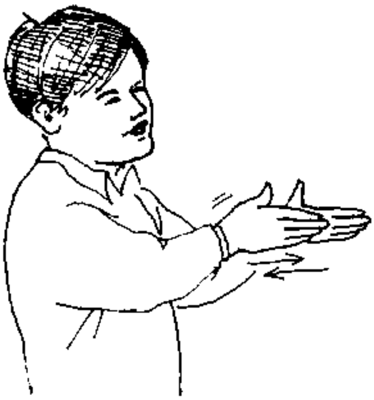
descendants, generations, posterity

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, one hand in front of the other
Location: near right shoulder
Movement: circle hands around each other while moving them forward
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward

anyhow, anyway, despite, doesn't matter, indifferent, nevertheless, regardless, whenever

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand in front of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slap right fingers against left fingers, then slap left fingers against right fingers

ambitious, diligent, eager, enthusiastic, industrious, Methodist, zealous



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms together
Location: neutral space
Movement: rub hands back and forth several times
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

heaven

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down
Location: above head
Movement: move right hand under left, then circle hands in opposite directions
Nonmanual signal: eyes gaze upward

kind, generous, gracious, merciful

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand closer to body
Location: left side of chest
Movement: circle hands around each other while slowly moving them forward
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; "grateful" expression

towel, wash

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in
Location: face
Movement: move hands alternately up and down several times

complete, end

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide edge of right hand across and off left index finger, then bring hand down

confront, approach, face to face

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand up to face left hand
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

below, background, basic, basis, beneath, bottom, basement, foundation, underneath

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand below left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand counterclockwise under left hand

bake, oven

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm up, hands perpendicular; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand under left hand

above, over

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand below left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand in toward body, then above left hand

on

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down on top of left hand

off

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand crossed on top of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: lift right hand off left hand

than

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, hands angled toward each other, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slap fingers of right hand on and past fingers of left hand

enter, entrance, go into

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, hands angled toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand under left hand

warn, admonish, advise, alert, caution, forewarn

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, hands angled toward each other, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack back of left hand twice with fingers of right hand

surface, cover, superficial

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand crossed on top of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand back and forth along left hand

operate, execute, run

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm up, hand below left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: quickly brush right fingers up and off left fingertips twice

time out

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, fingertips under left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit middle of left palm twice with right fingertips

OPEN B ❧ 2-Hand SIGNS

wood, saw

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, edge of hand on back of left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide edge of right hand back and forth across back of left hand

across, cross over, over

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand behind left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: cross right hand over left hand

laid off, discharge, dismiss, excuse

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply slide right fingers down and off left hand
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

clean, nice, plain, pure, simple

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, palm on top of left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right palm across left hand
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

wash dishes

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on top of left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand counterclockwise on left palm

paper, manuscript, newspaper, page

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack heel of right hand twice against heel of left hand

school

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: clap palms together twice

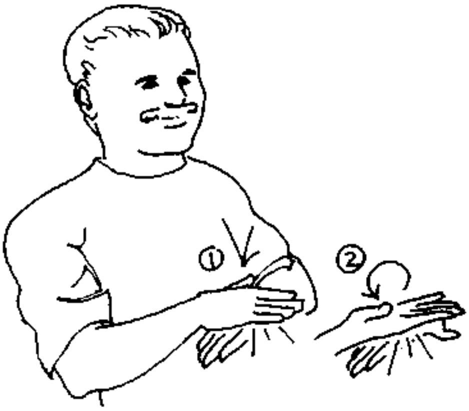
college, university

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: spiral right hand up

cheese

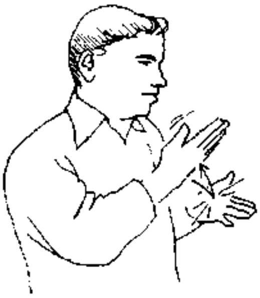
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, heel of right hand on left palm; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist right wrist back and forth several times

cook, fry, kitchen, pancake



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand crossed on top of left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand over and back on left palm

proof, evidence



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack back of right hand down sharply on left palm

arrive, reach

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand near shoulder
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand forward and down slowly, landing on left palm

new, modern

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up, hands angled toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide back of right hand across left palm

almost, about, nearly

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms angled up, right hand in front of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush back of left fingers twice with right fingers
Nonmanual signal: "cz" mouth utterance

rights, privileges

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, right pinky and ring fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide edge of right hand across left palm, ending with fingertips up
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

all right, okay

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, edge of hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush edge of right hand across left palm twice

stop, cease, halt

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down sharply on left palm
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

against, discriminate, oppose, prejudice, sue

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, fingertips pointed at left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit left palm sharply with fingertips of right hand
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

paint

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right fingertips up and down left hand

fish

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, fingertips on right wrist
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right wrist left and right

cheap, inexpensive

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: slap right fingers down and off left palm

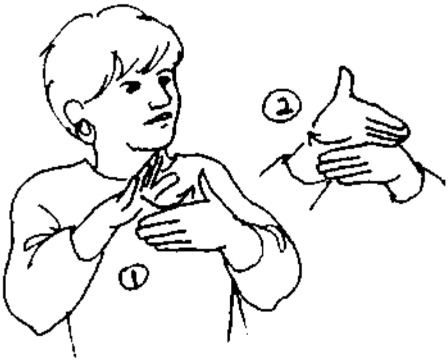
psychology

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down between left thumb and index finger twice

average, medium, range, temperate

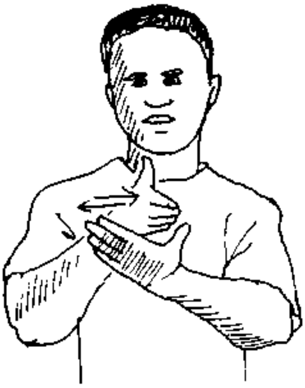
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, edge of hand resting on left index finger; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand back and forth along left index finger several times
Nonmanual signal: "mm" mouth utterance

share



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, slightly above left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing edge of right hand back and forth along left index finger twice

between



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, edge in crease of left thumb; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand between thumb and knuckle of left index finger

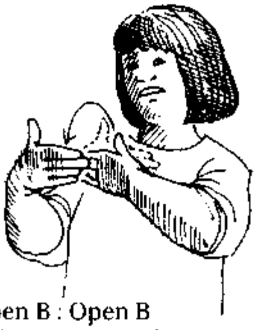
disrupt, hinder, impede, intercept, interfere, interrupt, obstruct, prevent (SM); annoy, bother, disturb (DM)

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down sharply on edge of left hand
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

after, beyond, next

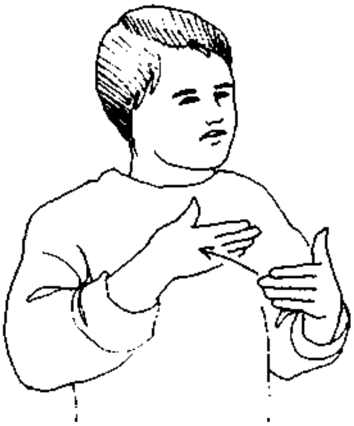
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, palm of right hand against left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand forward and down

after, next



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, back of right hand against left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand up and over left hand

before



Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, back of right hand against left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand toward body

all, entire, whole

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand down and smack back of right hand into left palm

approach, close to, near, neighbor, next door, next to

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, right hand behind left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit back of right hand against left palm twice
Nonmanual signal: "cz" mouth utterance; shoulders raised

gate, fence

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand out and back twice

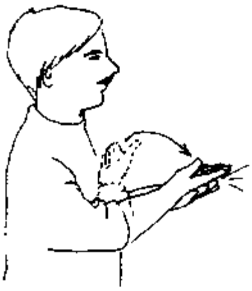
some, part

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, edge of hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand back in an arc on left palm

videotape (v.), camcorder

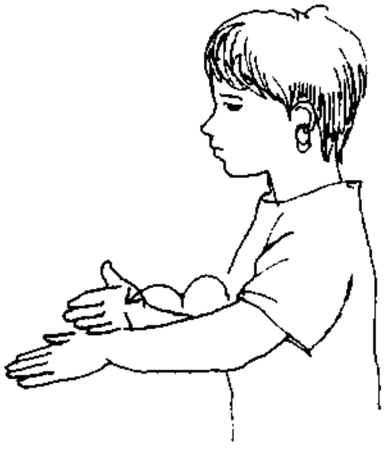
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left palm; left palm right
Location: in front of face
Movement: slightly bend right fingers down and up twice
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder raised

birth, born



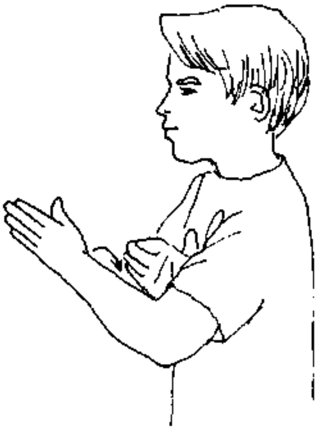
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: right hand close to chest; left hand in neutral space
Movement: arc right hand forward and down, landing on left palm

worsen, decrease, downhill, regress (passive)



Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm in, hand on left arm; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand down left arm
Nonmanual signal: "sad" expression

improve, appreciate, upgrade (passive)



Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm in, hand on left wrist; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand up left arm
Nonmanual signal: smile

power, authority, energy, might (passive)

Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm out, index finger against left upper arm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand down, ending with hand resting in left elbow crease, palm in

midnight (passive)

Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm left, arm relaxed at side; left palm down, fingertips in crease of right elbow
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand left slightly

morning (passive)

Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm up, arm outstretched; left palm in, hand in crease of right elbow
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right arm up slightly

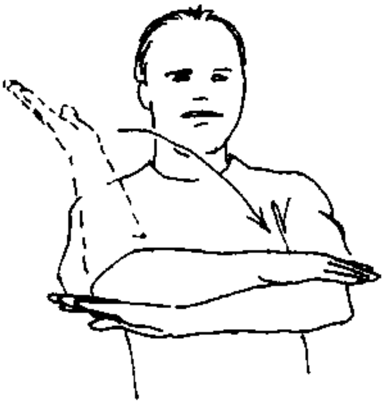
noon (passive)

Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm left, elbow slightly above left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right arm down to rest elbow on back of left hand

afternoon (passive)

Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm out, arm against left wrist; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right arm against left arm twice

all day (passive)

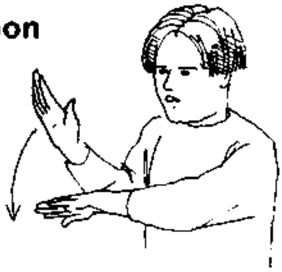


Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm left, elbow on back of left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: dramatically bring right arm down to rest on left arm
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

all night (passive)

Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm out; left palm down, fingers under right elbow
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right arm clockwise, ending with palm up
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

all afternoon (passive)



Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm out; left palm down, fingers under right elbow
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right arm down

table, desk (passive)

Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: palms down; right arm above left arm
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap arms together twice

sing, music (passive)

Handshape: Open B : passive
Orientation: right palm in, above left arm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand back and forth

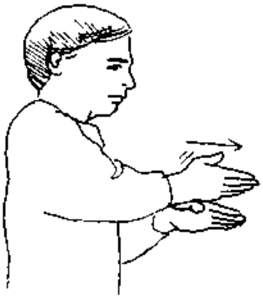
good, well

Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms in
Location: right hand on mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand out and smack back of hand on left palm
Nonmanual signal: smile

humble

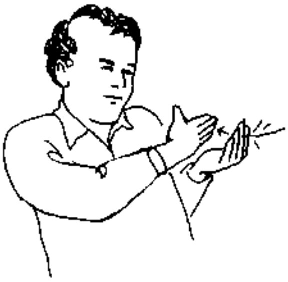
Handshape: Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right hand on lips; left hand in neutral space
Movement: pass right fingertips slowly under left hand
Nonmanual signal: head lowered

straight, faithful, integrity



Handshape: Open B : B
Orientation: right palm left, pinky on top of left index finger; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand straight out

slight (insult)



Handshape: Open B : Bent B
Orientation: right palm left, hand in front of left hand; left palm up, fingers bent
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply slap left fingers with right fingers
Nonmanual signal: "wounded" expression

cover, lid

Handshape: Open B : S
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down to cover left hand

blow up, blow one's top (slang), hot temper

Handshape: Open B : S
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: lift right hand up while wiggling fingers, then bring hand down sharply on left hand

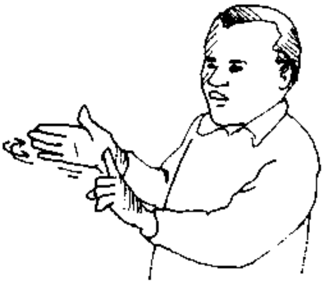
full, complete

Handshape: Open B : S
Orientation: right palm down; left palm in, hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand across top of left fist

fire, terminate

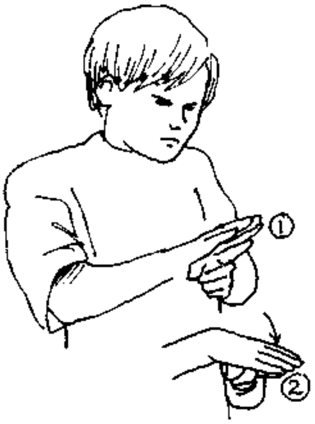
Handshape: Open B : S
Orientation: right palm up, directly above left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply brush back of right hand across top of left fist
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

flag



Handshape: Open B : 1
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, index finger on right wrist
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right wrist back and forth several times

pressure, oppress, stress (an individual)



Handshape: Open B : 1
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: press right hand sharply down on left hand
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed
Note: See page 345 for a variation of this sign.

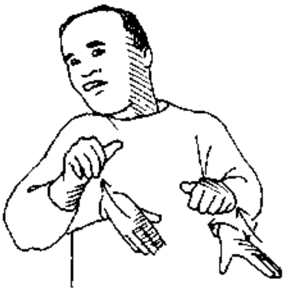
convince (an individual)

Handshape: Open B : 1
Orientation: right palm up; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand to strike left index finger
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

through

Handshape: Open B : 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingers between left index and middle fingers

depart, leave, withdraw

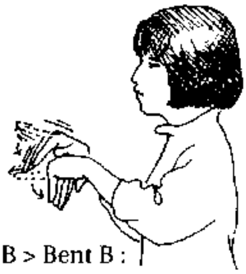


Handshape: Open B > A : Open B > A
Orientation: palms down, hands angled to left
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply pull hands in toward body, closing to A handshape

donkey, mule, stubborn

Handshape: Open B > Bent B : Open B > Bent B
Orientation: palms out
Location: thumbs on temples
Movement: bend right and left fingers down twice
Nonmanual signal: lips taut

hypocrite, two-faced



Handshape: Open B > Bent B : Open B > Bent B
Orientation: palms down, right palm on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right and left fingers down
Nonmanual signal: "sarcastic" expression

call, summon

Handshape: Open B > A : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingers on back of left hand, then brush fingers off left hand, ending in an A handshape

pie

Handshape: Open B > Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide edge of right hand from left index finger to heel of left palm, then bend hand and slide hand from base of left thumb to left pinky

center, intermediate, middle

Handshape: Open B > Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right fingers above left palm, then bend fingers and hit center of palm

frequent, often

Handshape: Open B > Bent B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand over twice, bending fingers, and hit center of left palm
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance
Note: See page 207 for a variation of this sign.

pet (v.), tame, stroke (SM); pet (n.)(DM)

Handshape: Open B > Bent B : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right palm on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: stroke right fingers on back of left hand twice

accumulate, collect, earn, harvest, reap (SM); salary, income (DM)

Handshape: Open B > S : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand rapidly down left palm, closing to S handshape

not guilty
(compound: not + accuse)

Handshape: Open B > A : Open B
Orientation: palms down, hands crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands, then change right hand to A handshape and brush right hand across back of left hand
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no" during first part of sign

injustice
(compound: not + equal)

Handshape: Open B > Bent B : Open B > Bent B
Orientation: palms down, hands crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands, then change hands to Bent B handshape, and bring hands together twice
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no" during first part of sign

limit, capacity,
reserved, restrict

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms in; right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrists out, ending with right fingers above left fingers
Nonmanual signal: "mm" mouth utterance

demote, debase, lower

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply move hands down in unison

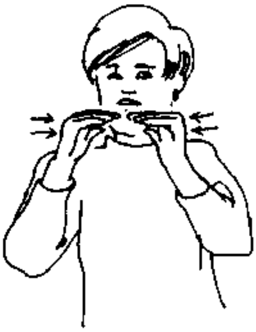
promote, advance

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: dramatically arc hands up in unison

even

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips almost touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands

equal, equivalent, fair, justice



Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap fingertips together twice

heavy

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hands down
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head lowers; "strained" expression

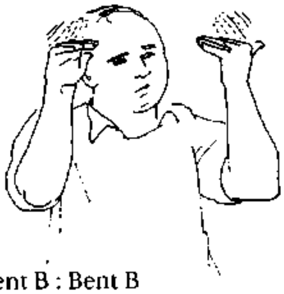
how

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms down, index and middle fingernails touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands around, ending with palms up
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; "puzzled" expression

separate, apart, part

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms in; fingernails touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands

hope, anticipate, expect



Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms facing; right hand near head
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend fingers down and up twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; eyes look up and left

sandwich (SM); picnic (DM)

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms in, fingertips toward mouth, right hand on left hand
Location: near mouth
Movement: move hands in twice toward mouth
Nonmanual signal: mouth open

responsibility, burden, fault, load, obligation

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms in, fingertips on right shoulder
Location: right shoulder
Movement: tap shoulder twice with fingertips
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression; head tilts right
Note: This sign can be made with the right hand only.

have, possess

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands in to chest

tired, exhausted, weary

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms down, fingertips on chest
Location: chest
Movement: twist hands forward and down, ending with fingers almost pointing up
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered

young, youth

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms in, fingertips on chest
Location: chest
Movement: brush fingers up and off chest twice
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

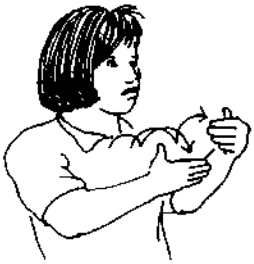
balance, scales

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands up and down alternately

build, construct

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternately overlap hands while moving them up

process, procedure, progress



Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms in; right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternately circle hands around each other while moving them forward

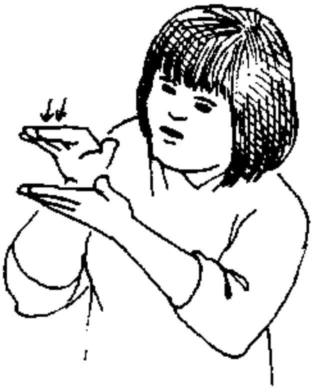
exceed

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand up and above left hand

easy, simple

Handshape: Bent B : Bent B
Orientation: palms up, right hand below left
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right fingers against fingers of left hand twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

little (size of object)



Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand slightly
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; eyes look at hands

reduce, decrease, diminish, discount, less, lessen

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm out; left palm up
Location: right hand near face; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down
Nonmanual signal: shoulders raised; "cz" mouth utterance

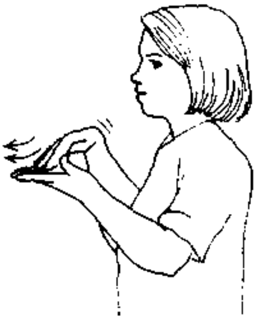
doctor, physician

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingers twice against left wrist

soap

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: scrape right fingertips down left palm twice

scrape



Handshape: Bent B > Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingertips down left hand twice

again, repeat

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand over, ending with fingertips in center of left palm

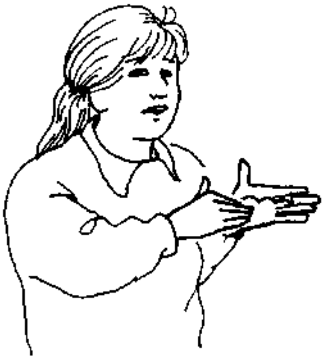
thousand

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right fingertips down to touch left palm

million

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right fingertips from left palm to fingertips

frequently, often



Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, fingertips on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right fingertips down left hand
Note: See page 200 for a variation of this sign.

excuse (n.), exempt, forgiveness, pardon (n.), parole (SM); pardon, excuse, forgive (v.) (DM)

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingers down and off left fingertips

mortgage, installments, layaway

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down left fingertips twice

list, chapter, course, lesson, outline

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left fingertips; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand down left hand

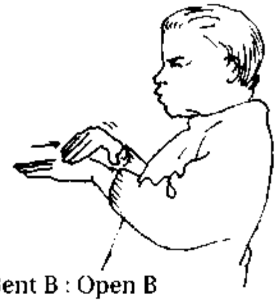
bread

Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: palms in; right hand in front of left
Location: neutral space
Movement: slice down back of left fingers with right fingers twice

England, English

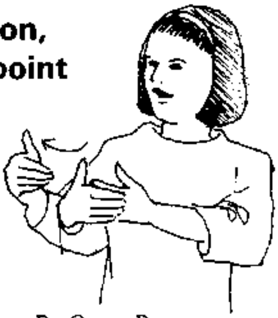
Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: palms down; hands crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: slightly pull hands in toward body twice

slow



Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: palms down; right fingertips on left fingertips
Location: neutral space
Movement: slowly slide right fingers back toward left wrist
Nonmanual signal: "mm" mouth utterance

from now on, from this point on



Handshape: Bent B : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, hand on back of left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand forward

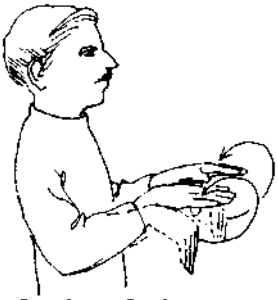
night (passive)

Handshape: Bent B : passive
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit heel of right palm against back of left hand twice

remind (one person)

Handshape: Bent B : 1
Orientation: right palm out, hand behind left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply tap right fingertips on left index finger twice
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

bury, cemetery, grave

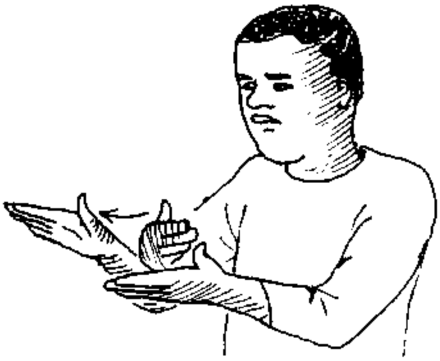


Handshape: Bent B > Open B : Bent B > Open B
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands up, straightening them, and pull them back toward body

send, dispatch, refer, send away

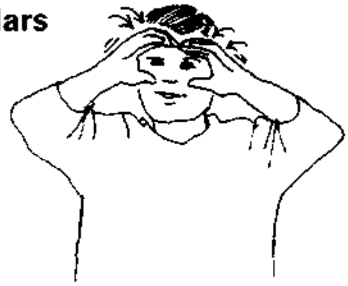
Handshape: Bent B > Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms down; right fingertips on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick right fingertips off left hand

reject, cast off



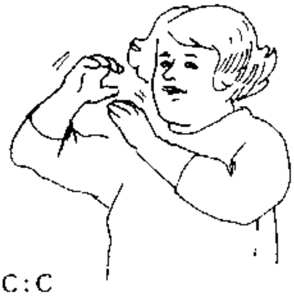
Handshape: Bent B > Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: sweep right hand sharply off left hand, straightening hand and ending with palm down
Nonmanual signal: "hurt" expression

binoculars



Handshape: C : C
Orientation: palms facing
Location: eyes
Movement: twist hands in twice

coconut



Handshape: C : C
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: near right ear
Movement: twist wrists slightly back and forth

do, action, activity, deed, demeanor

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands in unison left and right twice

class, association, company, group, organization

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: palms out, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands around, ending with palms in

decorate, fancy

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: spiral hands up

bowl (dish)

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: palms up, hands nearly touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up

calculus

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush hands against each other twice

client, consumer, customer

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs on chest
Location: chest
Movement: slide hands down to waist

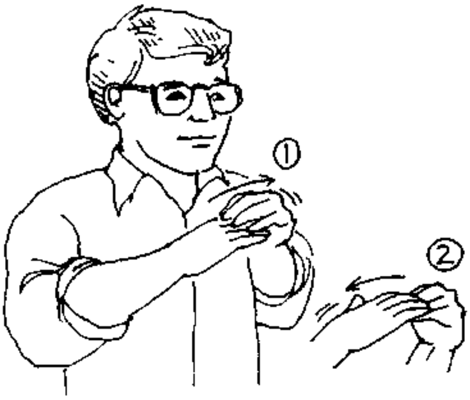
marry

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: right palm angled out; left palm angled in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together

communicate

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: palms facing, right hand near lips
Location: face
Movement: alternately move hands back and forth

comfortable



Handshape: C : C
Orientation: palms facing, left fingers on right fingers
Location: neutral space
Movement: slowly slide left fingers down right fingers, then slide right fingers hand down left fingers
Nonmanual signal: "contented" expression

hamburger

Handshape: C : C
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down on left palm, then flip hands and bring left hand down on right palm

certify

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack right hand down sharply on left palm

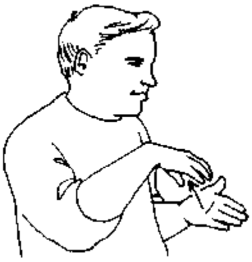
can, bottle, cup, glass, tumbler

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand on left palm

cake

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down left hand
Note: See next sign and page 82 for variations of this sign.

cake



Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand up slightly
Note: See previous sign and page 82 for variations of this sign.

cream, skim (v.)

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left fingertips; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down left palm, ending palm in

picture, photograph

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm out; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack right hand against left palm

constitution, commandments

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, thumb against left fingers; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand down left hand

paragraph

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips against left palm

chapter

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand against left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand down left hand

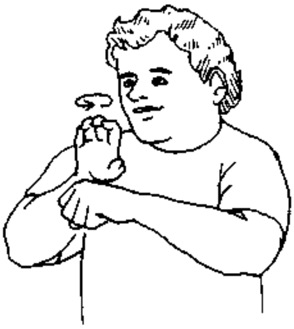
computer

Handshape: C : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, thumb above left wrist; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand up left arm in small spirals

church

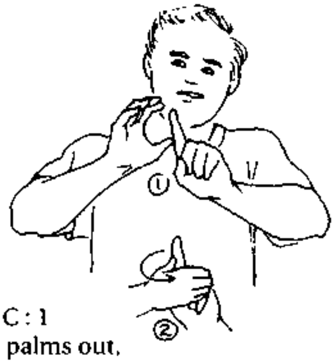
Handshape: C : S
Orientation: right palm out, hand above left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand on left hand

chocolate



Handshape: C : S
Orientation: right palm out, thumb on left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand on left hand

culture



Handshape: C : 1
Orientation: palms out, right thumb on left index finger
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand around left index finger, ending palm in

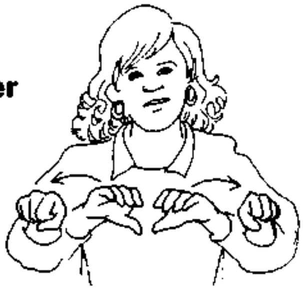
force, coerce, compel, impel

Handshape: C : 1
Orientation: right palm out; left palm down, index finger at wrist of right hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right wrist down
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder tilts forward; "serious" expression

president, superintendent

Handshape: C > S : C > S
Orientation: palms out
Location: near head
Movement: arc hands down and out, closing to S handshape
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

hot dog, frankfurter



Handshape: C > S : C > S
Orientation: palms down, hands almost touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands apart, closing to S handshape

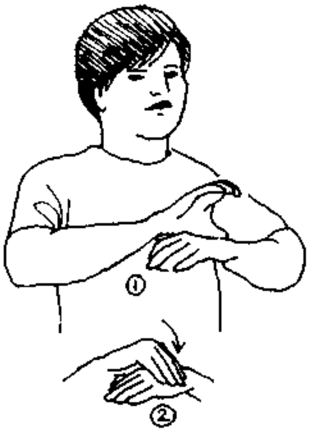
summarize, abbreviate, brief, condense

Handshape: C > S : C > S
Orientation: palms facing, right hand higher than left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together, closing to S handshape and ending with right hand on left hand

sausage

Handshape: C > S > C > S : C > S > C > S
Orientation: palms down, hands almost touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: close and open hands twice while moving them apart

deflate, flat tire



Handshape: C > Flattened O : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, thumb on left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: close right fingers down on left hand

copy, photocopy, Xerox, xerography

Handshape: C > Flattened O : Open B
Orientation: right palm up, hand below left palm; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down twice, closing to Flattened O handshape

subtract, deduct, eliminate, remove

Handshape: C > S : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingertips down and off left palm, closing to S handshape

expire, all gone, run out

Handshape: C > S : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down left hand, closing to S handshape

tackle, catch, nab

Handshape: C > S : H
Orientation: right palm left; left palm in, fingertips down
Location: neutral space
Movement: grab left fingers with right hand

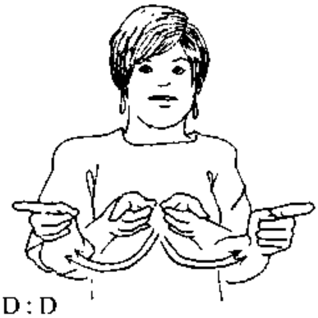
incompetent, dumb, moron, thick-skulled, unskilled

Handshape: C > 5 : S
Orientation: palms down, right thumb inside left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply bend right wrist back, opening to 5 handshape
Nonmanual signal: "disparaging" expression

divorce

Handshape: D : D
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands out, ending with palms out

decoder

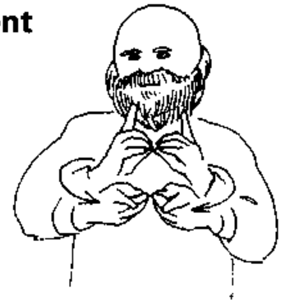


Handshape: D : D
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands apart and back together twice

date (social)

Handshape: D : D
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap fingertips together twice

department



Handshape: D : D
Orientation: palms facing; fingertips touch
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands around, ending with fingers touching

describe, define, direction

Handshape: D : D
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands alternately back and forth

diamond

Handshape: D : Open B
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand down on left ring finger

dictionary

Handshape: D : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right fingertips on left palm twice

doctor, physician

Handshape: D : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand;
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips on left wrist twice

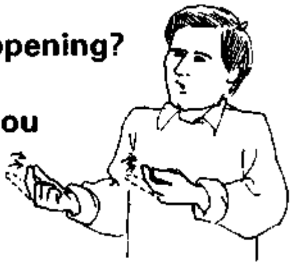
develop

Handshape: D : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, right fingertips on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand up and off left palm

day (passive)

Handshape: D : passive
Orientation: right palm left, elbow on left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down to rest on left arm

what's happening? what? what are you doing?



Handshape: D > Baby O : D > Baby O
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: open and close index fingers and thumbs, several times
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; "puzzled" expression

effort

Handshape: E : E
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands down and out, ending with palms out
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

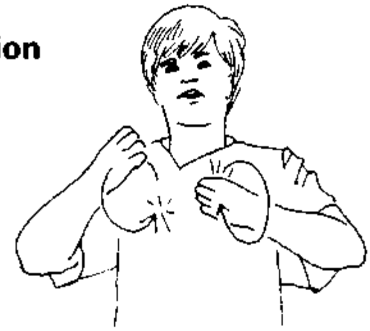
education, educate

Handshape: E : E
Orientation: palms facing
Location: forehead
Movement: double bounce hands forward

evaluate, evaluation, examination

Handshape: E : E
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternate hands in circling toward center
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

emotion

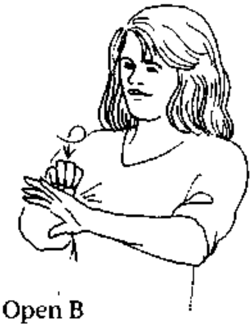


Handshape: E : E
Orientation: palms in
Location: chest
Movement: brush knuckles up chest while making alternating circles

encyclopedia

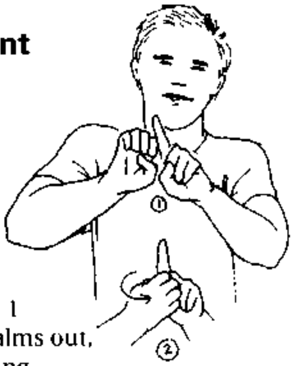
Handshape: E : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand across left palm twice

engaged (to be married)



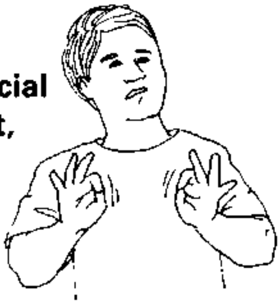
Handshape: E : Open B
Orientation: palms down; right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand in a circle and then land on left ring finger

environment



Handshape: E : 1
Orientation: palms out, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: rotate right hand around left index finger

nothing, nothing special nothing to it, petty



Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hands side-to-side several times
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; body and head lean back

exact, perfect, precise

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists toward each other in a short, quick motion
Nonmanual signal: lips tight

feedback

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists toward each other twice

free

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands out and around, ending with palms out

family

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms out, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands around, ending with pinkies touching

important, imperative, significant, value, vital, worth

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing; thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up, ending with thumbs touching, palms out
Nonmanual signal: head tilted back; "serious" expression

caption, subtitle

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands apart and back together twice

sentence

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands in wiggling motion

belong, affiliate, attach, connect, enlist, join, unite, participate

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together, interlocking thumbs and index fingers

cooperate

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs and index fingers interlocked
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands right

connection, relationship

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in, thumbs and index fingers interlocked
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands back and forth twice

cat

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing
Location: cheeks
Movement: brush hands across and off cheeks twice
Note: See page 71 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

describe, define, explain

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands alternately back and forth
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; body and head lean back

judge, if

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternately move hands up and down
Nonmanual signal: lips tight; "strained" expression

exchange, replace, trade

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands around each other to reverse positions

interpret, translate

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in, thumbs and index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrists to switch hand positions

Olympics

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in, thumbs and index fingers interlocked
Location: neutral space
Movement: unlock hands and reverse positions

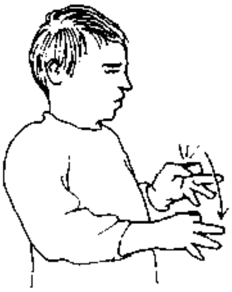
chain

Handshape: F : F
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in, thumbs and index fingers interlocked
Location: neutral space
Movement: unlock hands and reverse positions several times while moving hands right

ghost, soul, spirit

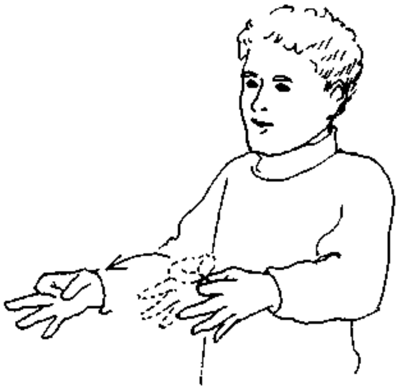
Handshape: F : F
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up, thumbs and index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: spiral right hand up

unfair



Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down, brushing right thumb and index finger past left thumb and index finger
Nonmanual signal: "annoyed" expression

defer, delay, postpone, procrastinate, put off

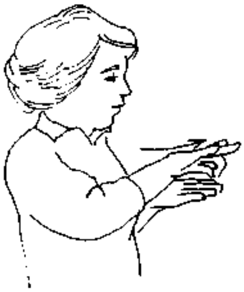


Handshape: F : F
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs and index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand deliberately forward
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; "annoyed" expression

field (profession)

Handshape: F : B
Orientation: right palm down, thumb and index finger on base of left index finger; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand along left index finger

very religious, religion, religious



Handshape: F : B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply brush right fingertips down and off left palm

count

Handshape: F : Open B
Orientation: palms facing; right thumb and index finger on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down left hand

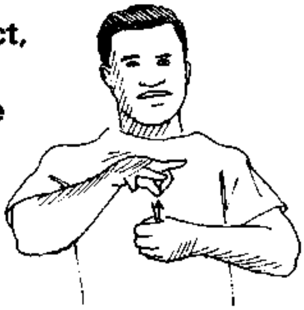
flunk, fail, forbid

Handshape: F : Open B
Orientation: right palm out; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply smack right hand on left palm

pen, write

Handshape: F : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, thumb and index finger on left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: draw circles down left palm with right thumb and index finger

vote, elect, election, nominate



Handshape: F : O
Orientation: right palm down; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: dip right fingertips into left hand twice

tea

Handshape: F : O
Orientation: right palm down, thumb and index finger in left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right thumb and index finger around left thumb and index finger

watch

Handshape: F : S
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left wrist
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right hand on left wrist twice

foreign (passive)

Handshape: F : passive
Orientation: palms down, right hand at left elbow
Location: neutral space
Movement: make small circles on left elbow with right hand

except, unique

Handshape: F : 1
Orientation: right palm down, thumb and index finger grasping left index finger; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull left index finger up with right hand
Nonmanual signal: body and head thrust back; lips pursed

detach, break-up, disassociate, disconnect

Handshape: F > 5 : F > 5
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs and index fingers interlocked
Location: neutral space
Movement: release fingers and separate hands

worthless, insignificant, trivial, unimportant

Handshape: F > 5 : F > 5
Orientation: palms facing, hands almost touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply flick fingertips apart and separate hands, ending palms down
Nonmanual signal: smirk

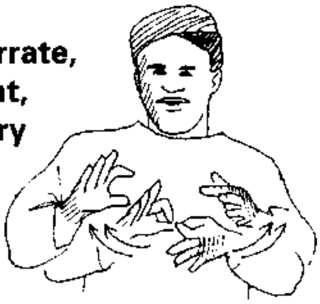
ring

Handshape: Open F : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right thumb and index finger down left ring finger

meat, beef, content (n.), steak, substance

Handshape: Open F : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: grip left hand with right thumb and index finger and shake hands slightly

story, narrate, statement, tell a story



Handshape: Open F > F : Open F > F
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together, interlocking thumbs and index fingers, then move hands apart and repeat

find, discover

Handshape: Open F > F : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand below left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand up past left hand, closing thumb and index finger

choose, choice, either, select

Handshape: Open F > F : V
Orientation: right palm out, hand closer to body; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: pluck left index finger with right thumb and index finger, then repeat on left middle finger

frame

Handshape: G : G
Orientation: palms out, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands, then move them down and back together

group

Handshape: G : G
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands around, ending with palms in

grammar

Handshape: G : G
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands in wiggling motion

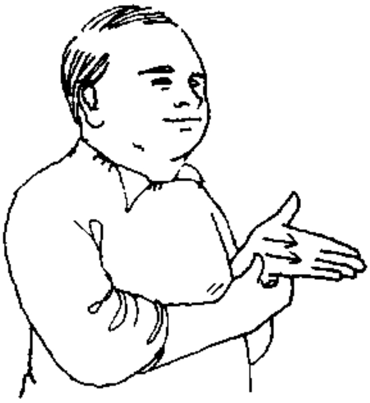
geometry

Handshape: G : G
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush hands against each other twice

graduate

Handshape: G : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand over and land in left palm

magazine, booklet, brochure, leaflet, manual, pamphlet



Handshape: G : Open B
Orientation: right palm up, fingers gripping edge of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand along left hand twice
Note: See page 260 for a variation of this sign.

word, vocabulary

Handshape: G : 1
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips on left index finger twice

wake up

Handshape: G > L : G > L
Orientation: palms facing
Location: near eyes
Movement: open fingers up into L handshape
Note: See page 256 for a variation of this sign.

gossip, rumor

Handshape: G > Baby O : G > Baby O
Orientation: palms out
Location: right hand on mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: circle hands clockwise, opening and closing fingers repeatedly

print, newspaper, publish

Handshape: G > Baby O : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, thumb on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: close right index finger and thumb twice

rabbit

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend fingers down twice

egg

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrists down

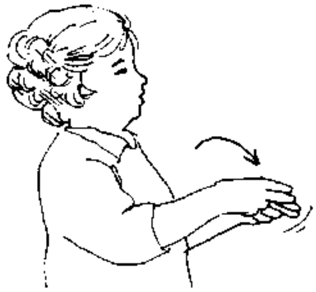
bacon

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms down, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands while wiggling index and middle fingers

highway, freeway, interstate, thoroughfare, throughway, thruway

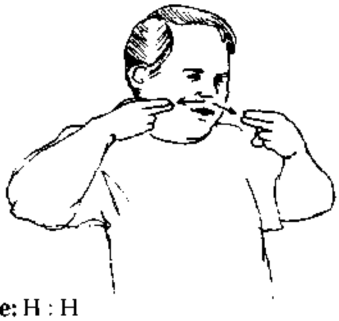
Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush hands past each other twice

named, called



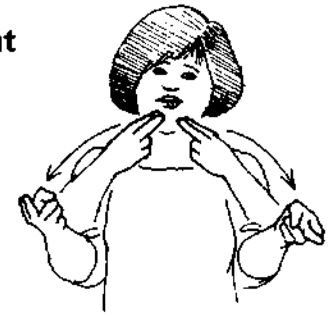
Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands out and down

bandit, burglar, crook, thief



Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms in, fingertips touching
Location: below nose
Movement: separate hands
Note: This sign is sometimes formed with an agent marker.

innocent

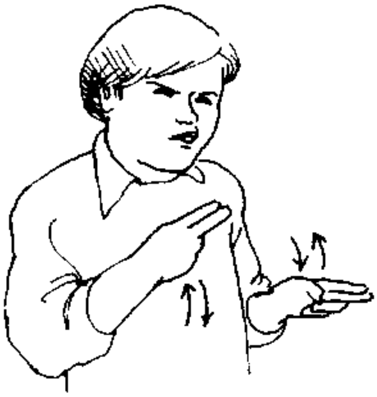


Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms in
Location: mouth
Movement: move hands down, ending with palms up

heritage

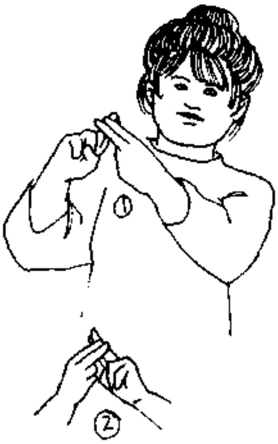
Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms in
Location: near shoulder
Movement: circle hands around each other while moving them forward

hurry, haste, rush



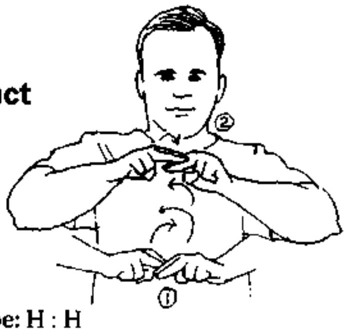
Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternate hands in moving up and down rapidly
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; "concerned" expression

closet, locker



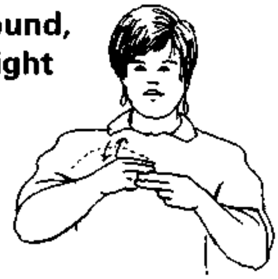
Handshape: H : H
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: turn hands over, reversing positions

build, construct



Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms down, right fingers on left fingers
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternately slap fingers on top of each other while moving hands up

weigh, pound, scale, weight



Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: rock right fingers on left fingers

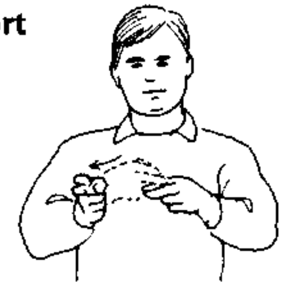
sharp

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply brush right fingers off left fingers

knife

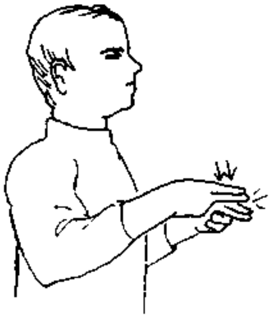
Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: saw right fingers back and forth across left index finger

brief, short



Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingers off left index finger

name (n.)



Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms facing, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right fingers on left fingers

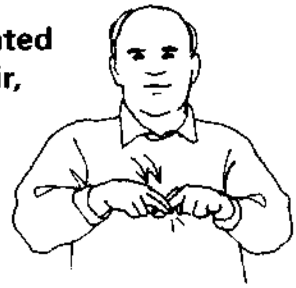
decrease, lose weight

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms down, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand off left hand, ending with palm up

increase, add (on), gain, onto, raise

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: right palm up, hand below left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand over to rest on top of left fingers

sit, be seated (SM); chair, seat (DM)



Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms down, right fingers above left fingers
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right fingers down on left fingers

train, railroad

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms down, fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingers down and back left fingers several times

spoon, soup

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: palms up, right fingers on left fingers
Location: neutral space
Movement: scoop right hand up toward mouth

stamp, postage

Handshape: H : H
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: right hand at mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: flip right hand down and land on left fingers
Note: See page 236 for a variation of this sign.

fun

Handshape: H: H
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down
Location: right hand on nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: flip right hand down to rest on left fingers
Nonmanual signal: smile; eyes widen

spoon, ice cream, soup

Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right fingers off left palm and up toward mouth

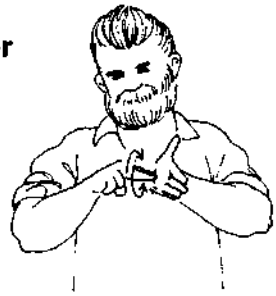
butter

Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, wrist bent down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right fingertips off left palm twice
Note: Right fingers can bend each time.

sign (SM); contract, signature (DM)

Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand over to smack fingers on left palm

screwdriver



Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist right fingertips back and forth twice

holy

Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down in an arc on left hand
Nonmanual signal: "solemn" expression

honest, frank, sincere, truthful

Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, middle finger on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide edge of right middle finger down and off left palm

university

Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingers on left palm; left palm facing up; right hand on left
Location: neutral space
Movement: spiral right hand above left hand

nurse

Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips above left wrist; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips on left wrist twice

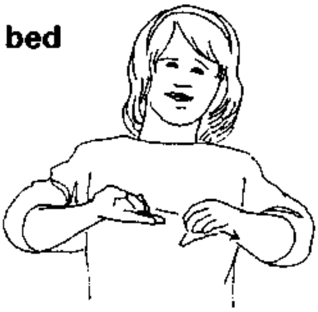
natural, naturally, of course

Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand over left hand, then drop fingertips on left hand

stamp, postage

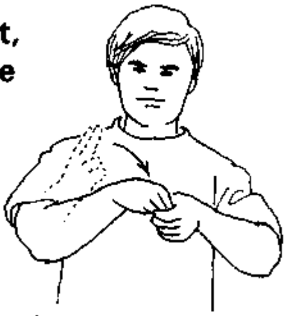
Handshape: H : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: right fingertips on lips; left hand in neutral space
Movement: flip right hand down and smack fingers on left palm
Note: See page 234 for a variation of this sign.

get into bed



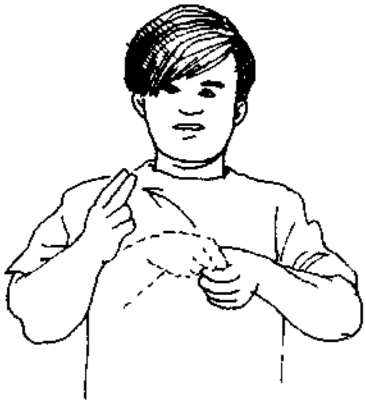
Handshape: H : C
Orientation: right palm up; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingers inside left hand

join, enlist, participate



Handshape: H : O
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: insert right fingers into left hand

quit, drop out, resign, retire



Handshape: H : O
Orientation: palms in, right fingers inside left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull right fingers out of left hand, ending with fingers up
Nonmanual signal: body leans away from repelling reference; "disgusted" expression

nation
(native)

Handshape: H : S
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand above left hand, then drop fingertips on left hand

bandage, Band-Aid

Handshape: H : S
Orientation: palms down, right fingers on pinky edge of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingers across left hand

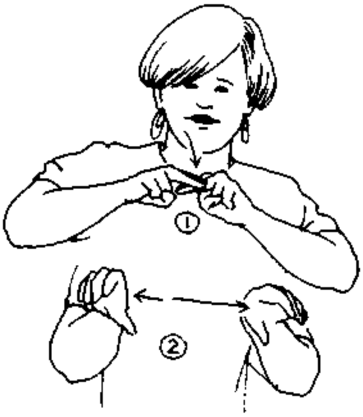
use, utilize, wear

Handshape: H : S
Orientation: right palm out, heel on left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand clockwise on left hand twice

used to, usually

Handshape: H : S
Orientation: right palm out, heel on left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move both hands down

couch
(compound: sit + long seat)



Handshape: H > C : H > C
Orientation: palms down, right fingers above left fingers
Location: neutral space
Movement: drop right fingers on left fingers, then change both hands to C handshape, hands touching, and separate hands

Bible
(compound: holy + book)

Handshape: H > Open B : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down in an arc on left hand, then bring hands together and open them

too late
(compound: train + gone)

Handshape: H > G > Baby O : H
Orientation: palms down; fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingers along left fingers, then change right hand to G handshape and slide off left hand, closing thumb and index finger
Nonmanual signal: "pah" mouth utterance

spaghetti, line, string, thread, twine

Handshape: I : I
Orientation: palms in; pinkies touch
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands with a spiraling motion

independent, independence

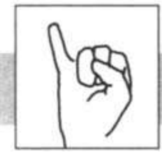
Handshape: I : I
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply separate hands, ending with palms out
Nonmanual signal: body and head thrust back; "satisfied" expression

isolated, lonely, talk to oneself

Handshape: I : I
Orientation: palms in; hands touching
Location: near face
Movement: tap hands together twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; "sad" expression

individual

Handshape: I : I
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down



paranoid

Handshape: I : I
Orientation: palms in
Location: near head
Movement: spiral hands up alternately
Nonmanual signal: body leans back and sways; tongue protruding

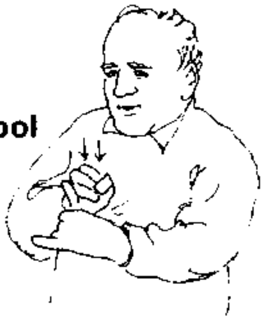
egotism, conceited

Handshape: I : I
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right hand on chest; left hand in neutral space
Movement: tap hands on chest with alternating motion
Nonmanual signal: chest puffs out; shoulders alternately tilt back and forth; lips pursed

end, final, last

Handshape: I : I
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: slice right pinky down through left pinky

institute, residential school, school for the deaf

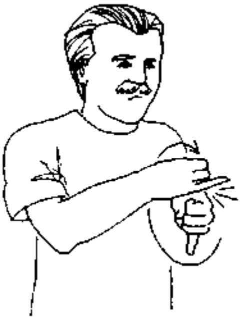


Handshape: I : I
Orientation: right palm left, right hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right hand on left hand twice

thin, skinny, slender

Handshape: I : I
Orientation: palms in, pinky fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down
Nonmanual signal: cheeks sucked in

international



Handshape: I : I
Orientation: right palm left, right hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand completely around left hand

jam, jelly

Handshape: I : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, right hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right pinky down heel of left palm twice

art, draw, design *(artist, designer, illustrator)*

Handshape: I : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, right pinky on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: squiggle right pinky down left palm

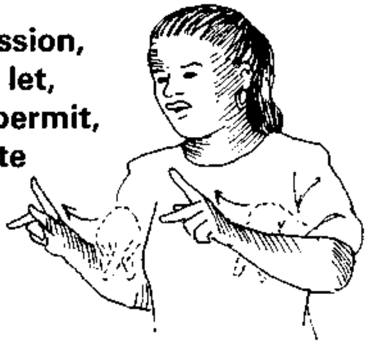
place, location, position

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: palms facing, middle fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands back, ending with middle fingers touching

person

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move both hands down

permission, allow, let, may, permit, tolerate



Handshape: K : K
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands up

party

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands left and right

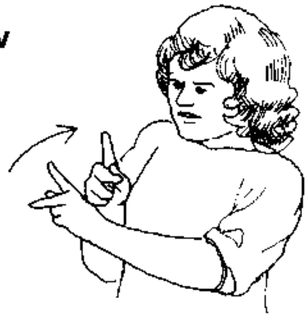
perfect, precise

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: palms facing; right hand closer to body and above left
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring middle fingers together
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

supervise, care for, take care of *(caregiver, supervisor)*

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands clockwise

borrow



Handshape: K : K
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands back toward chest

lend, loan

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands forward

multiply, arithmetic, calculate, figure

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush hands past each other twice

worse

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands toward each other, then brush past each other
Nonmanual signal: "pained" expression

people, humanity, mankind, public

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands out, alternating hands

kind, sort, type

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: rotate hands around each other, ending in original position

careful, be careful

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand on left hand
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; "urgent" expression

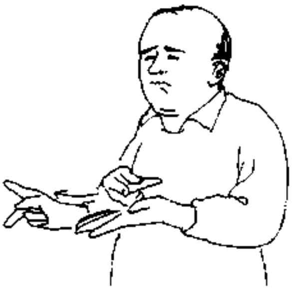
keep, maintain

Handshape: K : K
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down on left hand

pure, professional

Handshape: K : B
Orientation: right palm left, middle finger on base of left thumb; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right middle finger off left index finger
Nonmanual signal: "cz" mouth utterance

fail, flop

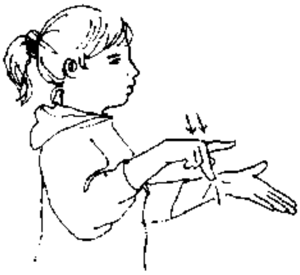


Handshape: K : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand across left palm
Nonmanual signal: "sad" expression

graduate school

Handshape: K : Open B
Orientation: palms angled in, right hand above left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand on left wrist

psychiatry *(psychiatrist)*



Handshape: K : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, middle finger above left wrist; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right middle finger on left wrist twice

piece

Handshape: K : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, middle finger on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right middle finger across left palm

poison

Handshape: K : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, middle finger on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle right hand side to side
Nonmanual signal: "sour" expression

principle

Handshape: K : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand down to left wrist

kitchen

Handshape: K : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand over twice, ending with palm up

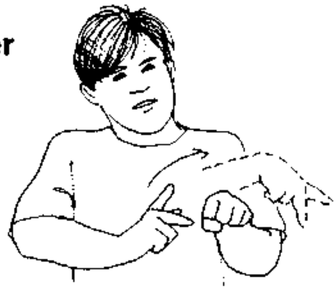
program

Handshape: K : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, middle finger on heel of left palm; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right middle finger up left palm and over fingertips, then slide down back of left hand

poetry (passive)

Handshape: K : passive
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left arm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand back and forth over left arm

Passover

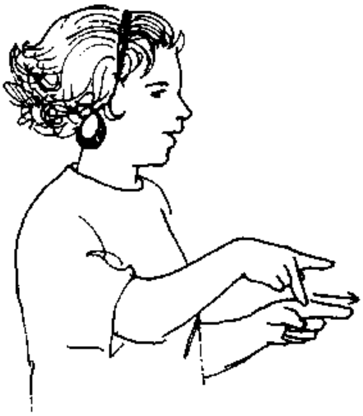


Handshape: K : S
Orientation: right palm out; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand over left hand, ending palm down

principal

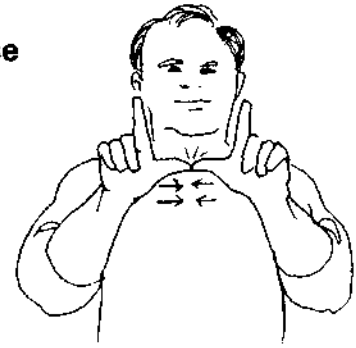
Handshape: K : S
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand over left hand, then drop middle finger on left hand

profession



Handshape: K : 1
Orientation: right palm down, middle finger on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right middle finger off left index finger

license

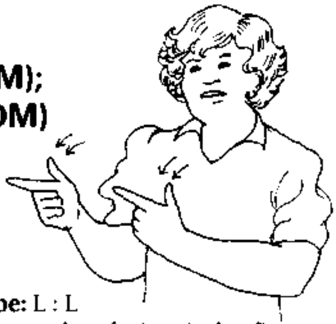


Handshape: L : L
Orientation: palms out, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap thumbs twice

language

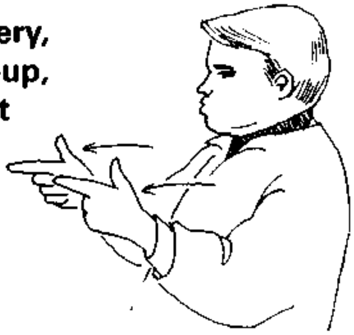
Handshape: L : L
Orientation: palms out, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands with slight wiggling motion

gun, rifle (SM); hunt (DM)



Handshape: L : L
Orientation: palms facing; index fingers angled up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down, ending with index fingers out

robbery, hold-up, shoot

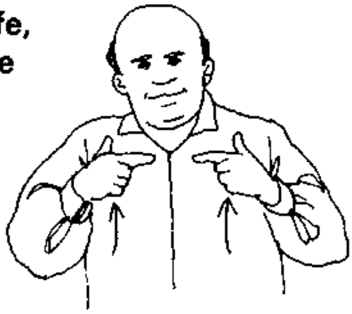


Handshape: L : L
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward

vagina

Handshape: L : L
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs and index fingers almost touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap fingertips twice

live, life, survive

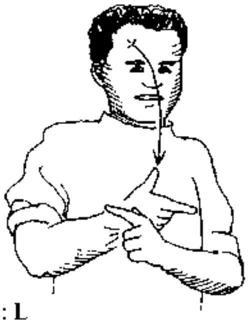


Handshape: L : L
Orientation: palms in
Location: waist
Movement: brush hands up chest

sister

Handshape: L : L
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right thumb on cheek; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down to rest on left hand

brother



Handshape: L : L
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right thumb on temple; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down to rest on left hand

law *(attorney, lawyer)*

Handshape: L : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, right palm on left fingertips
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand down left palm

later, after awhile, subsequently

Handshape: L : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, thumb on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right hand down

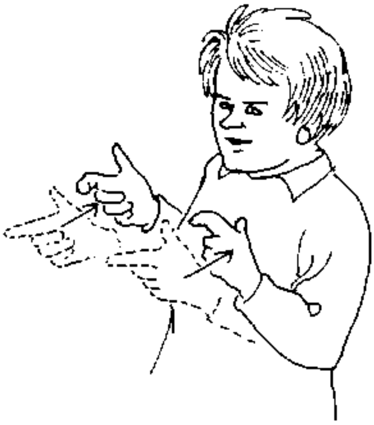
ban, forbid, prohibit

Handshape: L : Open B
Orientation: right palm out; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand around and smack into left palm
Nonmanual signal: "stern" expression

aide, assistant

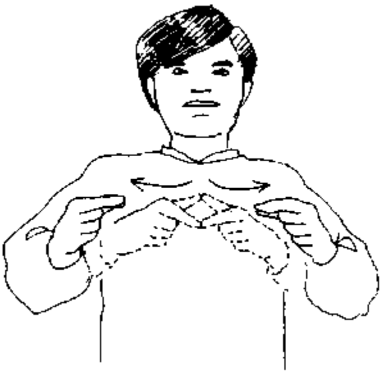
Handshape: L : S
Orientation: right palm hand below left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right thumb on bottom of left hand twice

fast



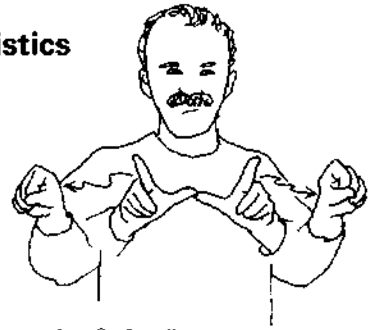
Handshape: L > Bent L : L > Bent L
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend index fingers while sharply pulling hands back
Nonmanual signal: body jerks back

Japan, Japanese



Handshape: L > Baby O : L > Baby O
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs and index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands and close thumbs and index fingers

linguistics



Handshape: L > S : L > S
Orientation: palms out; thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle hands apart, changing to S handshape

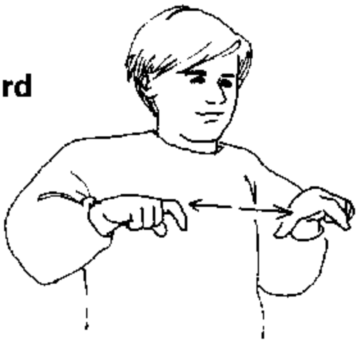
plate, platter, dish

Handshape: Bent L : Bent L
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down slightly

lucky

Handshape: Bent L : Bent L
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide hands in to center and out twice
Nonmanual signal: head leans back
Note: This is a regional sign.

card, placard



Handshape: Bent L : Bent L
Orientation: palms down, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands

conceited, arrogant, big shot (slang), egotistical, swelled head (slang)

Handshape: Bent L : Bent L
Orientation: palms in, index fingertips on forehead
Location: forehead
Movement: move hands off head with an exaggerated motion
Nonmanual signal: body leans back; "disgusted" expression

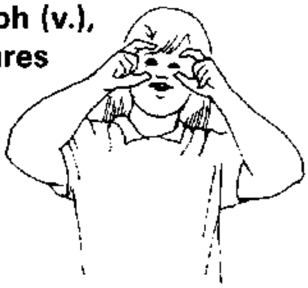
glasses, eyeglasses

Handshape: Bent L : Bent L
Orientation: palms facing
Location: eyes
Movement: tap thumbs under eyes twice
Note: See page 251 for a variation of this sign.

huge, big, enormous, great, immense

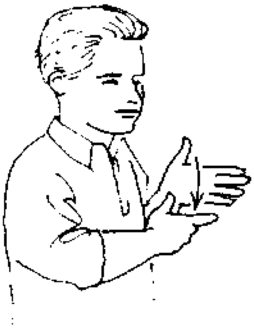
Handshape: Bent L : Bent L
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands apart in spiral motion
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

camera, photograph (v.), take pictures



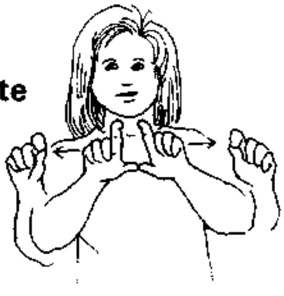
Handshape: Bent L : Bent L
Orientation: palms facing
Location: near eyes
Movement: bend right index finger twice

article (written)



Handshape: Bent L : Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush thumb and index fingertips down left palm

card, license plate



Handshape: Bent L > Baby O : Bent L > Baby O
Orientation: palms out, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands, closing thumbs and index fingers

glasses, eyeglasses

Handshape: Bent L > Baby O : Bent L > Baby O
Orientation: palms facing
Location: thumbs and index fingertips around eyes
Movement: move hands off face, closing thumbs and index fingers
Note: See page 250 for a variation of this sign.

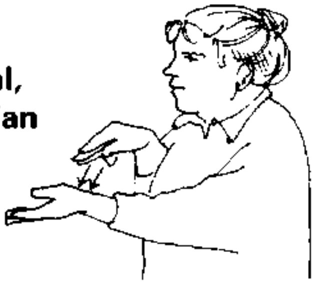
run

Handshape: Bent L : L > Bent L
Orientation: right palm left, index finger gripping left thumb; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend thumbs and left index fingers while moving hands forward
Nonmanual signal: body jerks back and forth when fingers bend

mathematics

Handshape: M : M
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush hands against each other twice

doctor, medical, physician



Handshape: M : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left wrist; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips on left wrist twice

-ment (suffix)

Handshape: M : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, hand on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down left palm

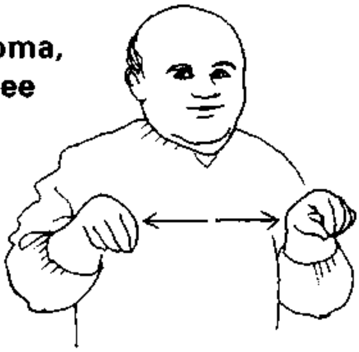
none, no (quantity)

Handshape: O : O
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

nothing, naught

Handshape: O : O
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide hands slightly toward center and out twice
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

diploma, degree

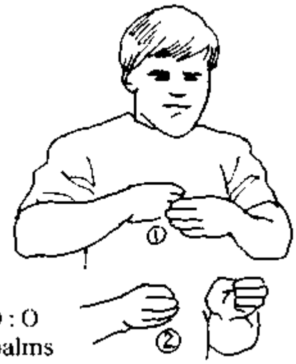


Handshape: O : O
Orientation: palms down, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands

organization

Handshape: O : O
Orientation: palms out, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands around, ending with pinkies touching

office



Handshape: O : O
Orientation: palms in, right hand behind left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands and twist wrists, ending with palms facing

zero, absolutely nothing

Handshape: O : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply slap right hand on left palm

sunrise (passive)

Handshape: O : passive
Orientation: palms down, right arm in front of and below left arm
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right arm up

sunset, Shabbat (passive)

Handshape: O : passive
Orientation: right palm left arm in front of and above left arm; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right arm down

opportunity

Handshape: O > K : O > K
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists up, changing to K handshape
Nonmanual signal: eyes widen

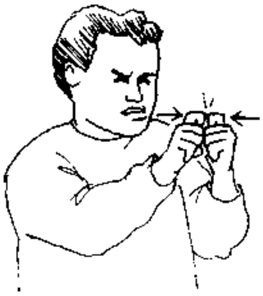
none, nothing

Handshape: O > 5 : O > 5
Orientation: palms facing, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands out and down, opening to 5 handshape
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

exact, precise, specific

Handshape: Baby O : Baby O
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand slightly, then bring hands together
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

revenge, get even, retaliate



Handshape: Baby O : Baby O
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply tap index fingers together
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

tear, torn, rip

Handshape: Baby O : Baby O
Orientation: right palm out, thumb on left thumb; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist and bend wrists back

celebrate, anniversary, cheer, rejoice, reunion, victory, win

Handshape: Baby O : Baby O
Orientation: palms in
Location: above shoulders
Movement: twirl hands around
Nonmanual signal: smile
Note: See page 109 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

write

Handshape: Baby O : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right fingertips down left palm twice

match

Handshape: Baby O : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, index finger on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right index finger up left palm

chicken

Handshape: Baby O : Open B
Orientation: right palm out; left palm up
Location: right hand at nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down and peck on left palm

pencil

Handshape: Baby O : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: right hand on lips; left hand in neutral space
Movement: twist right hand around and bring down to slide across left palm

surprise, amaze, astonish, astound

Handshape: Baby O > 1 : Baby O > 1
Orientation: palms facing
Location: under eyes
Movement: move hands out while flicking index fingers up
Nonmanual signal: body and head thrust back; "surprised" expression

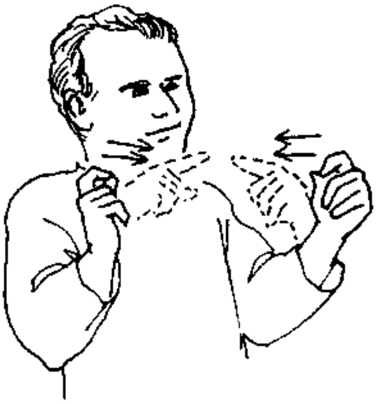
awake, wake up

Handshape: Baby O > 1 : Baby O > 1
Orientation: palms facing
Location: under eyes
Movement: flick index fingers up
Nonmanual signal: body and head thrust back; eyes open wide
Note: See page 229 for a variation of this sign.

spend (time)

Handshape: Baby O > 1 : Baby O > 1
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick index fingers out while moving hands up

correspondence, letter writing



Handshape: Baby O > 1 : Baby O > 1
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists and flick index fingers out twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed
Note: See page 262 for a variation of this sign.

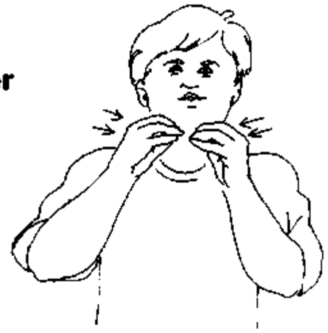
teach, educate, instruct *(teacher, educator, instructor, professor)*

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms facing
Location: near head
Movement: double bounce hands forward

dirt, soil

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: rub thumbs across fingertips repeatedly

more, further

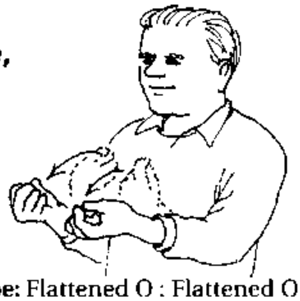


Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap fingertips twice

put, move

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands forward

provide, give

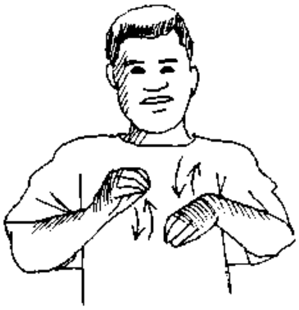


Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists back and move hands forward
Note: See page 92 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

sell, sale, vend (SM); store, market *(seller, merchant, salesclerk, vendor)* (DM)

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick wrists up

pack



Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternately move hands up and down

fix, repair

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush fingertips past each other while moving hands back and forth

number

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: right palm left; left palm in; hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands in opposite directions, then back to original position

budget

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms up, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: switch hand positions several times

cosmetics, make-up

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms in
Location: near face
Movement: move hands alternately up and down

feast, banquet, luncheon, reception

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands alternately toward mouth
Nonmanual signal: "mm" mouth utterance

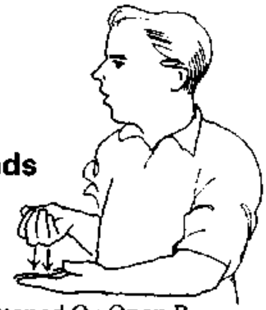
magazine, booklet, brochure, leaflet, manual, pamphlet

Handshape: Flattened O : Open B
Orientation: right palm up, hand gripping left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand along left hand
Note: See page 229 for a variation of this sign.

buy, purchase ***(buyer, customer, purchaser)***

Handshape: Flattened O : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand up and out

money, budget, economics, finance, funds



Handshape: Flattened O : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack right hand on left palm twice

shop, shopping

Handshape: Flattened O : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand off left hand repeatedly in different directions
Nonmanual signal: body moves left to right with movement

flexible

Handshape: Flattened O : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand gripping left fingers; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend left fingertips back and forth
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

install, investment

Handshape: Flattened O : C
Orientation: right palm out; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand into left hand

in, into (SM); inside (DM)

Handshape: Flattened O : O
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand into left hand

cherry, berry

Handshape: Flattened O : 5
Orientation: palms in; right fingertips gripping left pinky
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist right hand back and forth

spend, treat (v.)

Handshape: Flattened O > A : Flattened O > A
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward while sliding thumbs across and off fingertips

correspondence

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms facing, arms at an angle
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands toward each other and flick fingers open
Note: See page 255 for a variation of this sign.

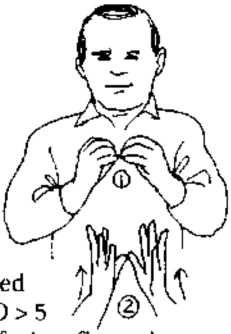
lose, lost, misplaced

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms in, fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down, opening to 5 handshape
Nonmanual signal: head down; eyes searching; "distressed" expression

distribute, give out

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms in; fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands out while opening fingers

blossom, bloom



Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms facing; fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands up while opening fingers

move away,
move out

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands across body, opening fingers
Nonmanual signal: head tilts and eyes gaze in direction of referent

spread,
spill

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms down; fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: open hands out, spreading fingers

afraid,
frightened,
scared

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands toward each other and flick fingers open
Nonmanual signal: "scared" expression

inform, information,
news, notify

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: right fingertips on head; left hand near face
Movement: arc hands down and forward, opening fingers

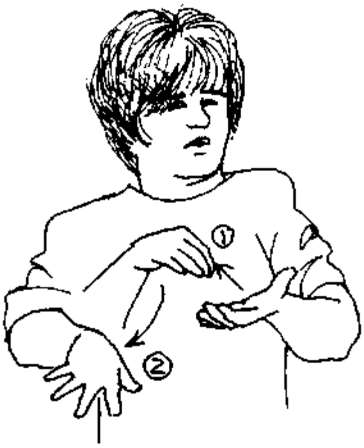
record (v.), put down, register

Handshape: Flattened O > Open B : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, right fingertips on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: open right hand and press against left palm

advise, affect, counsel, influence

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : B
Orientation: palms down, right hand on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand off left hand, opening hand

expensive, costly



Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: lift right hand and flick fingers open
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

waste, extravagant, squander

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: sling right hand out, opening hand
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

rich, wealthy

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palms left, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: raise right hand, twisting and changing to 5 handshape
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

overflow

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, hand on left palm; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand up and over left hand, changing to 5 handshape, then wiggle fingers down

grow, develop, mature (SM); spring, plant (n.)(DM)

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : C
Orientation: right palm up, hand below left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand up through left hand, opening fingers

feed
(compound: food + give)

Handshape: Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: palms in
Location: right hand at mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, then double bounce hands out

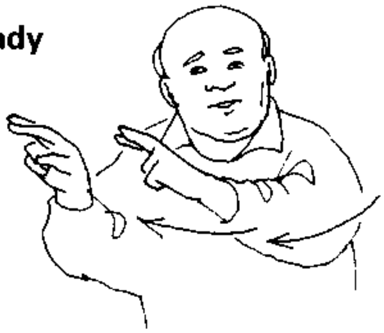
land
(compound: dirt + surface)

Handshape: Flattened O > 5 : Flattened O > 5
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: rub thumbs across fingertips several times, then open hands, turn them over and circle them toward each other

relay
(operator service)

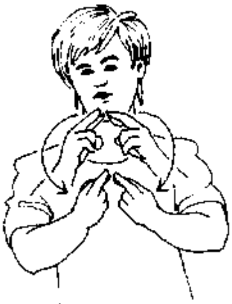
Handshape: R : R
Orientation: right palm left, left palm right, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down twice

ready



Handshape: R : R
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands across body

doughnut

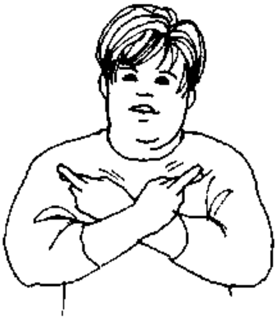


Handshape: R : R
Orientation: palms facing; fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands down, ending with palms in

response, reply, report, react

Handshape: R : R
Orientation: palms out
Location: right hand at mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: arc hands forward and down
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward

rest, relax



Handshape: R : R
Orientation: palms in, arms crossed
Location: chest
Movement: tap hands on chest twice
Nonmanual signal: "contented" expression

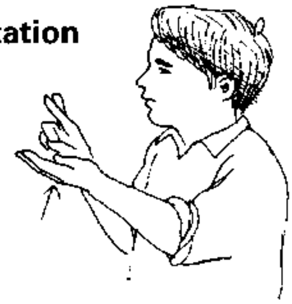
rabbi

Handshape: R : R
Orientation: palms in
Location: chest
Movement: slide fingers down chest

room

Handshape: R : R
Orientation: palms in; right hand in front of left
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists back, ending with palms facing

rehabilitation



Handshape: R : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: lift left hand up

require

Handshape: R : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, fingertips on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands back toward body

rule, regulation

Handshape: R : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, right fingers on left fingertips
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand down left palm

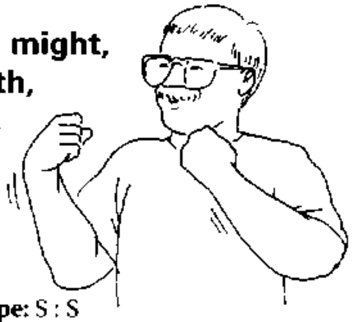
research

Handshape: R : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: right hand on nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down and brush fingers down left palm
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "inquiring" expression

reinforce

Handshape: R : S
Orientation: palms in; right hand below left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit base of left hand with right fingertips and push left hand up

power, might, strength, sturdy, tough



Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hands forward
Nonmanual signal: shoulders and head thrust back; lips pursed

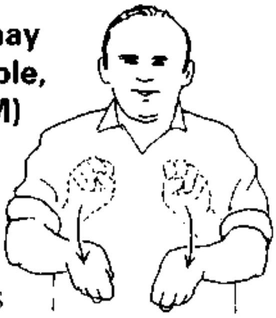
ski

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing arms back

cold, chilly, shiver, winter

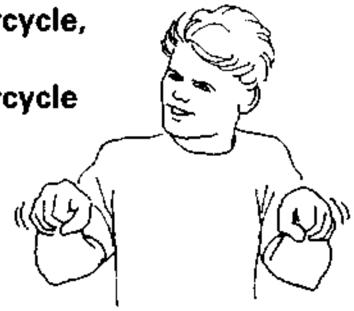
Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake arms toward each other
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "shivering" expression

can, able, may (SM); possible, capable (DM)



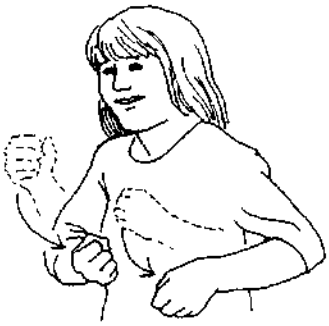
Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down while moving arms down
Nonmanual signal: head nods "yes"

motorcycle, ride a motorcycle



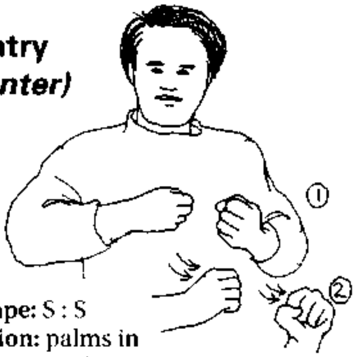
Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrists out twice

canoe



Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms facing, arms at an angle
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing arms back to left side

carpentry *(carpenter)*



Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: slightly twist hands out while moving them forward, ending with palms facing

stretch

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull hands apart

shoes

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap hands together twice

hold

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm left, right hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hands slightly

baseball

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm in, right hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hands forward

accustom, bound, custom, habit, locked into, tradition

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down, right hand on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down

accident, collide, collision

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack hands into each other

break, fracture

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down, hands touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands up and to sides, ending with palms facing

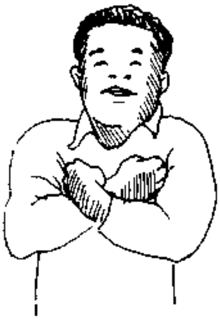
defend, guard, protect, shield

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: push arms forward forcefully

free, emancipate, liberate, redeem, relief, rescue, safe, save

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands and twist them around, ending with palms out
Nonmanual signal: body leans back; smile

embrace, dear, hug, love

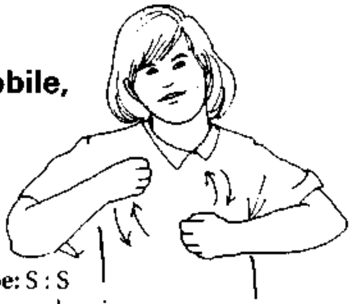


Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in, arms crossed
Location: chest
Movement: slightly squeeze arms to chest
Nonmanual signal: smile; shoulders raised

neck (v.)

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

car, automobile, drive



Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands alternately up and down
Note: "Drive" is usually made with larger movements than "car."

bicycle, bike, ride a bicycle

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands alternately forward

Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands around each other

box, fight

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: punch hands alternately toward each other

make, create, construct, manufacture, produce

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in, right hand on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists back

doubt, disbelief, waver

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands alternately up and down
Nonmanual signal: head tilts; "disbelieving" expression

grieve, grief, heartbreak

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply twist hands around, switching positions
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "sad" expression

agony, suffer, suffering

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands alternately around each other, ending in original position
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "pained" expression

stone, rock

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right hand on left hand twice

appointment, engagement, reservation, reserve

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand above left hand, then drop hand down on left hand

work, employ, employment, job, labor, task, toil

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm out, wrist on left wrist; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand on left wrist twice

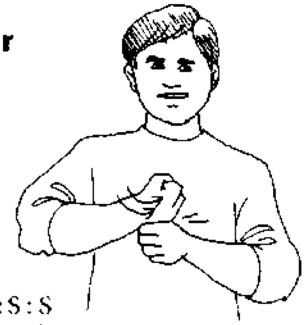
year

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand around left hand and return to original position

hammer

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right hand down several times
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

fix, repair



Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand against left hand twice
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

coffee

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in; right hand on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand counter-clockwise on left hand

umbrella

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in; right hand on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand up

support, advocate, endorse, maintain, reinforce, sponsor, sustain, uphold

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms in, right hand below left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: push left hand up with right hand

exaggerate

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down, right hand in front of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand forward in small arcs

advertise, propaganda, publicize

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: palms down, right hand in front of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand forward twice
Nonmanual signal: pursed lips

defeat, conquer

Handshape: S : S
Orientation: right palm out, wrist against edge of left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply bend right hand over left hand
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

certify, license, seal

Handshape: S : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, hand above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: stamp left palm with edge of right fist

credit card, charge

Handshape: S : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, hand on left fingertips; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: rapidly slide right hand back and forth across left palm

bell, chimes, ring bells

Handshape: S : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand against left palm

state (geography), statute (law)

Handshape: S : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, hand on left fingertips; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand once down to heel of left hand

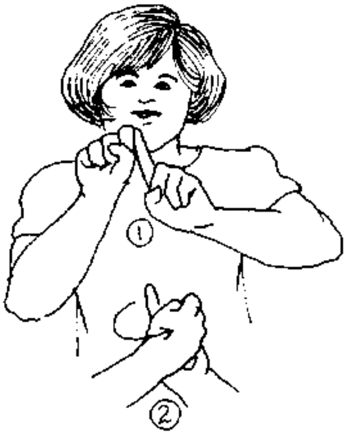
sample, symbol

Handshape: S : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, hand against left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward in two quick motions

stage (passive)

Handshape: S : passive
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left wrist; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down to left fingertips

situation



Handshape: S : 1
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand around left index finger

abuse, hit (more than once), attack, strike (more than once)

Handshape: S : 1
Orientation: right palm in, hand closer to body; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right knuckles harshly back and forth against left index finger
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

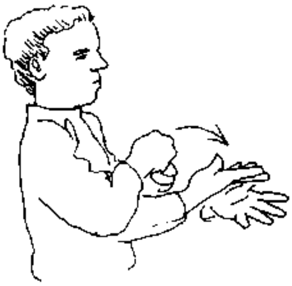
obey

Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: right hand on forehead; left hand in front of left cheek
Movement: move hands down and forward while opening hands

terrible, awful, dreadful, horrible

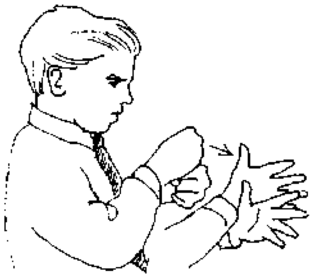
Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: palms out
Location: both sides of the temple
Movement: move hands straight out while opening hands
Nonmanual signal: "disgusted" expression

cause



Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: palms up, right hand in front of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward while opening hands

bawl out



Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: right palm left, right hand on top of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick fingers out sharply
Nonmanual signal: body jerks forward; "angry" expression

many, lots, multiple, numerous

Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply thrust hands forward while flicking fingers open
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

how many, how much

Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands up, flicking fingers open
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; eyebrows knit

magic

Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward slightly, then down, flicking fingers open

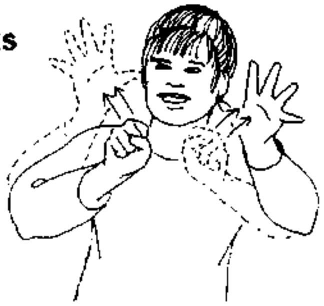
express (feelings)

Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: chest
Movement: arc hands forward while opening hands
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

expand, enlarge

Handshape: S > Bent 5 : S > Bent 5
Orientation: palms in; right hand on top of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands apart while opening hands to Bent 5 handshape

fireworks

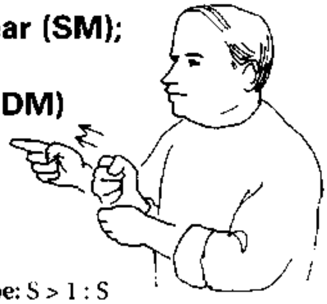


Handshape: S > 5 : S > 5
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternately open and close hands rapidly in different locations in the air

climb, ladder

Handshape: S > Bent 5 : Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: close and open hands while moving hands up in alternating motions

next year (SM); annual, yearly (DM)

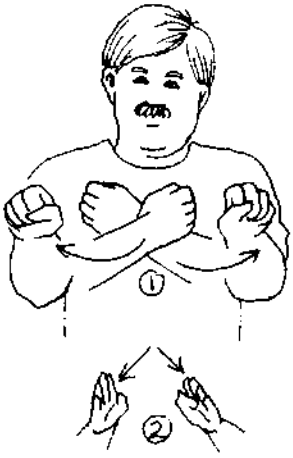


Handshape: S > 1 : S
Orientation: right palm left, hand on top of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick right index finger out as right hand moves forward

abortion

Handshape: S > 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm up, hand against left palm; left palm angled right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand sharply out and down, flicking fingers open

refuge, shelter
(compound: safe + roof)

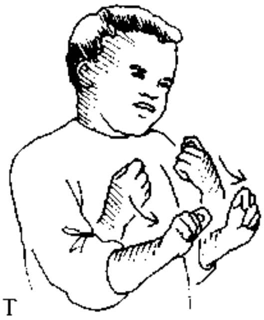


Handshape: S > B : S > B
Orientation: palms in, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands and twist them around, then change to B handshape, palms down, fingertips touching, and angle hands down

hill
(compound: rock + slope)

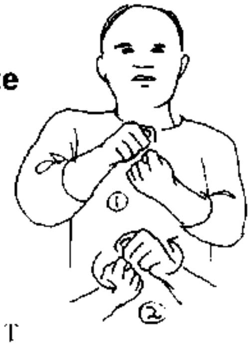
Handshape: S > Open B : S > Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: drop right hand onto left hand, then change to Open B handshape and outline the contours of a hillside

try



Handshape: T : T
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands down and twist forward, ending with palms out
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

translate, transliterate



Handshape: T : T
Orientation: right palm down, hand resting on left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: reverse hand positions

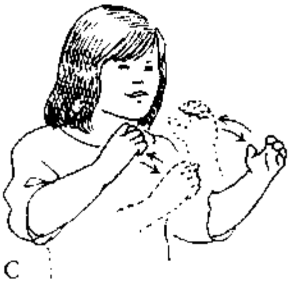
team

Handshape: T : T
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands around, ending with pinkies nearly touching

time (abstract)

Handshape: T : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, hand against left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand clockwise around left palm

Total Communication

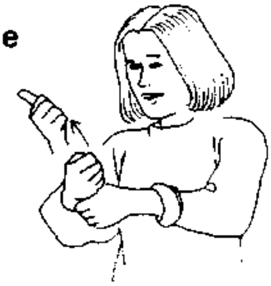


Handshape: T : C
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternately move hands back and forth

temple, synagogue

Handshape: T : S
Orientation: right palm out; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce heel of right hand on back of left hand

champagne



Handshape: T > Open A : S
Orientation: palms in, right hand on top of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand quickly upward while flicking thumb out

fast, quick, rapid

Handshape: T > Open A : T > Open A
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: quickly flick thumbs out while moving hands forward

transliterate, translate

Handshape: T > L : T > L
Orientation: right palm out, hand on heel of left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: reverse positions of hands, flicking open thumbs and index fingers

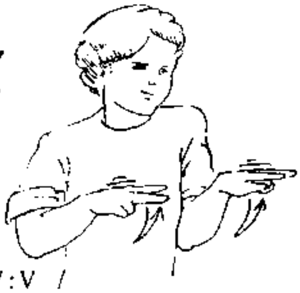
look forward to, anticipate

Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms down, hands angled left
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hands forward
Nonmanual signal: eyes widen

funeral

Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms out, right hand behind left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hands forward
Nonmanual signal: "sad" expression

contempt, patronize, scorn



Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms down, hands angled left
Location: neutral space
Movement: move fingers down and up sharply
Nonmanual signal: "smirking" expression

vain, flatter, vanity

Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms in
Location: above shoulders
Movement: bend fingers down and up twice
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

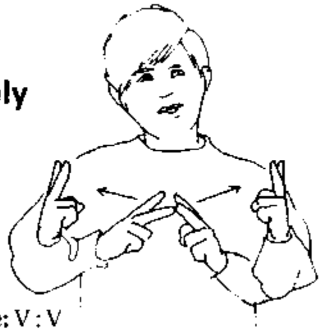
tent, camping

Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips angled toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down at an angle
Note: See page 305 for a variation of this sign.

intercourse, copulate, fornicate

Handshape: V : V
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand on left hand

very, extremely



Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips angled toward each other and touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands sharply
Nonmanual signal: "intense" expression

visit

Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands out alternately

either, or

Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips angled toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap left index finger with right index finger, then tap left middle finger with right middle finger, repeat
Nonmanual signal: body tilts slightly side to side

save, preserve, reserve, store

Handshape: V : V
Orientation: palms in, right hand in front of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit left fingers twice with right fingers
Note: See page 288 for a variation of this sign.

indecision, uncertainty

Handshape: V : B
Orientation: right palm down, index and middle finger straddling left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: rock right hand side to side
Nonmanual signal: "indecisive" expression

ride (horse, bike)

Handshape: V : B
Orientation: right palm down, index and middle fingers straddling left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hands forward several times (horse); move hands forward (bike)

predict, forecast, foretell, omen, prophecy *(fortune-teller, prophet)*

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down
Location: right hand below eyes; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand under and beyond left hand

drown

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, fingertips wedged between left index and middle fingers; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle right hand down

lose (competition)

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack right hand down sharply on left palm
Nonmanual signal: "sad" expression

dance, party

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand left and right
Nonmanual signal: smile

stand

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down so fingertips touch left palm

fork

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, finger tips above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: stab left palm with right fingertips twice

recline, lie down

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: palms up, back of right hand on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide back of right hand across left palm
Nonmanual signal: "tired" expression

arise, get up, stand up

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm left; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right fingers over to stand on left palm

fall down, fall

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand over and smack onto left palm
Nonmanual signal: body leans back

read

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right fingertips down left palm

mean, imply, intend, motive, purpose, signify

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: rotate right fingertips on left palm

toast

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: palms facing; right fingertips toward left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: stab palm and back of left hand with right fingertips by rotating both hands

twice, double, duplicate

Handshape: V : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, middle finger on left palm; left palm right, fingertips up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right middle finger up left palm

salt

Handshape: V : H
Orientation: palms down, right fingertips above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap left fingers twice with alternating right index and middle fingers

dive

Handshape: V : H
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on back of left fingers; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand off left hand, ending below left hand with fingertips up

watch

Handshape: V : S
Orientation: palms down; right hand on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward in two quick motions

save, store, reserve, preserve

Handshape: V : S
Orientation: palms in, right hand in front of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips on back of left hand twice
Note: See page 284 for a variation of this sign.

bridge (passive)

Handshape: V : passive
Orientation: right palm left, fingertips on left wrist; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right fingertips along left arm, ending at left elbow

sheep (passive)

Handshape: V : passive
Orientation: right palm up, fingers on left arm; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: shear back of left arm with right fingertips

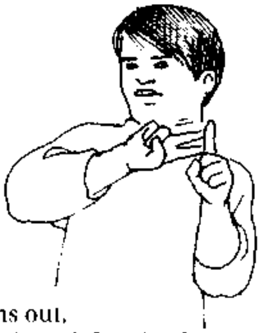
plumbing, wrench *(plumber, mechanic)*

Handshape: V : 1
Orientation: palms in, right index and middle fingers straddling left index finger
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist right index and middle fingers around left index finger

apply, shelve it (slang), table it (slang)

Handshape: V : 1
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down onto left index finger

vocabulary



Handshape: V : 1
Orientation: palms out, right fingertips above left index finger
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips on left index finger twice as hands move left slightly

plug, electric outlet

Handshape: V : 1
Orientation: right palm down, behind left hand; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: plug right index and middle fingers into left index finger

both

Handshape: V > H : C > S
Orientation: palms in, right hand inside left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down left palm, closing left hand as right fingers come together

videotape (n.)

Handshape: V > T : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, index finger against left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand clockwise, ending in T handshape

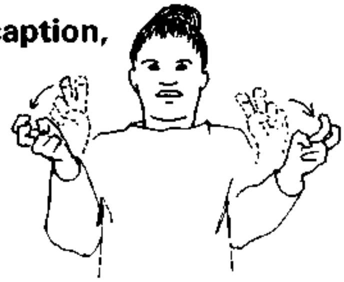
jump

Handshape: V > Bent V : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right fingertips on left palm, bending the fingers on the way up

rob, steal (passive)

Handshape: V > Bent V : passive
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply slide right hand from left elbow to left wrist while bending fingers

quote, caption, subject, theme, title, topic



Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrists, ending with palms facing

dead (animal), kick the bucket (slang)

Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms facing, fingers out
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply twist wrists up
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

analyze, analysis, research

Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms down, knuckles facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: slightly straighten and bend fingers twice
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "inquiring" expression

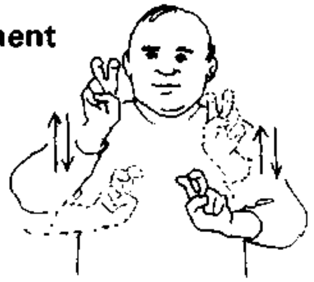
laid up

Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms facing, fingers out
Location: left side of body
Movement: arc hands up sharply toward right shoulder
Nonmanual signal: pursed lips, body and head lean back

poison

Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms in, wrists crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap wrists against each other twice
Nonmanual signal: "sour" expression

tournament

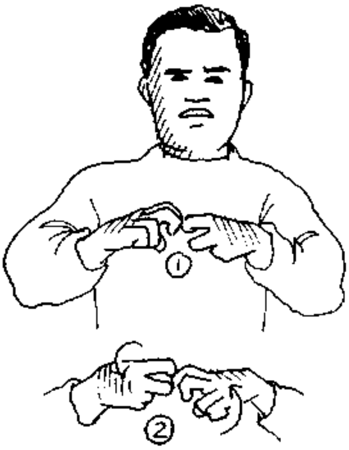


Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms out, right hand higher than left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: shift hands up and down several times

difficult, hardship

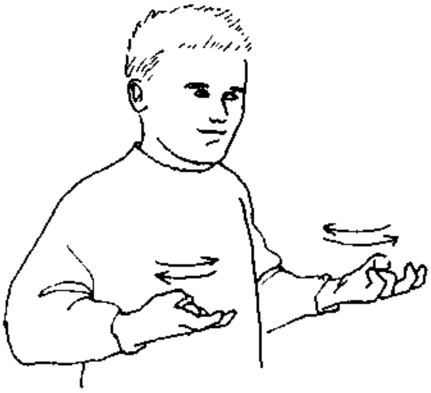
Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms in, knuckles facing, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush knuckles against each other in alternating pattern
Nonmanual signal: lips tight; "strained" expression

problem



Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: right palm down; left palm in, knuckles touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands to switch palm positions
Nonmanual signal: lips tight; "strained" expression

roller skate



Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide hands alternately back and forth several times

tough

Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down, brushing knuckles of left hand sharply
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

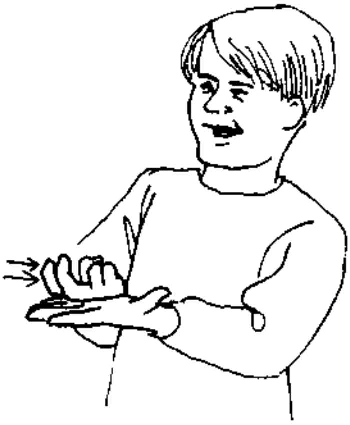
dumbfounded, open-mouthed, speechless

Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: right palm in; left palm out, back of left hand against mouth
Location: in front of mouth
Movement: arc right hand down, ending with palm up
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; "shocked" expression

squirrel

Handshape: Bent V : Bent V
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right hand above mouth; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down to left hand, then tap fingertips together several times
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; cheeks puffed

hilarious, laughter, rolling in the aisles (slang)

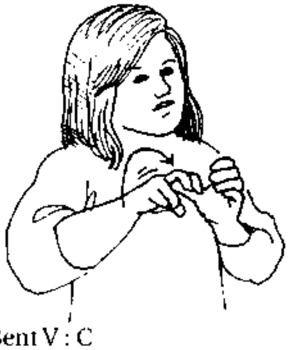


Handshape: Bent V : Open B
Orientation: palms up, right hand on left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand across left palm while straightening and bending right index and middle fingers
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; head tilted back

kneel

Handshape: Bent V : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, knuckles above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down onto left palm

get in



Handshape: Bent V : C
Orientation: right palm up; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand down to perch on left thumb

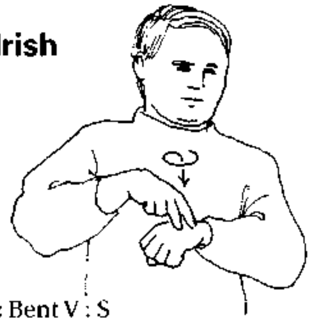
get out

Handshape: Bent V : C
Orientation: right palm down, fingers on left thumb; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip right hand off left thumb

hard

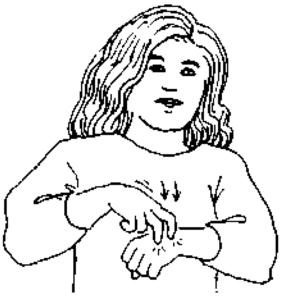
Handshape: Bent V : S
Orientation: right palm in, hand above left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down onto back of left hand
Nonmanual signal: lips tight

Ireland, Irish



Handshape: Bent V : S
Orientation: palms down, right fingertips above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand above left hand, then land on left hand

potato

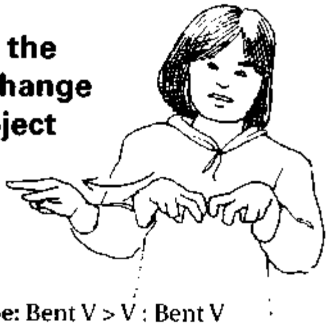


Handshape: Bent V : S
Orientation: palms down, right fingertips above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertips on back of left hand twice

nab, caught in the act, contact, corner (v.)

Handshape: Bent V : 1
Orientation: right palm down, hand in back of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand forward to trap left index finger between right knuckles
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

change the topic, change the subject



Handshape: Bent V > V : Bent V
Orientation: palms down, index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right hand to the right, straightening bent fingers

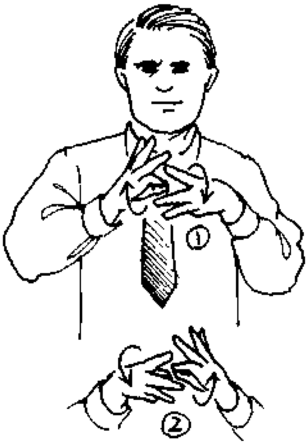
war

Handshape: W : W
Orientation: palms down, fingertips pointing toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands side to side in unison

winter

Handshape: W : W
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap pinkies and thumbs together twice

weather



Handshape: W : W
Orientation: palms facing, thumbs and pinkies touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands in opposite directions twice

world

Handshape: W : W
Orientation: right palm left, hand on top of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands around each other

worship

Handshape: W : W
Orientation: right palm left; left palm down
Location: right index finger on right side of head; left hand in neutral space
Movement: right hand twists down, ending with hand on top of left hand
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

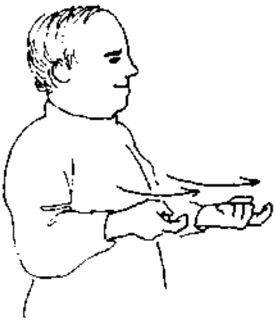
dangerous, hazardous

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip hands over sharply
Nonmanual signal: eyes widen; "frightened" expression

give, award, contribute, present, reward (SM); gift, award, contribution, present, reward (DM)

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms facing, index fingers up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists forward and down

ski

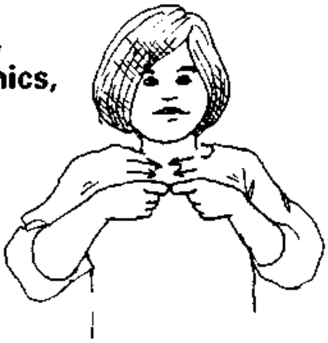


Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: glide hands forward and back slightly

urge, coax, persuade, prod

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms up, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: tug hands in toward body twice
Nonmanual signal: "earnest" expression

electric, electronics, physics

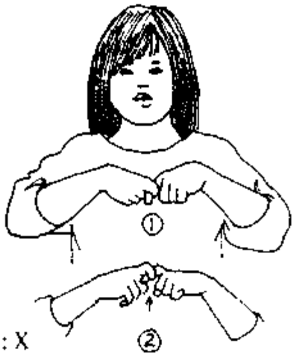


Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms in, knuckles touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit knuckles together twice

Spain, Spanish *(Spaniard)*

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms in
Location: shoulders
Movement: move hands forward, ending with index fingers clasped

suspend, hold up



Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms down, index fingers clasped
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply bring wrists up

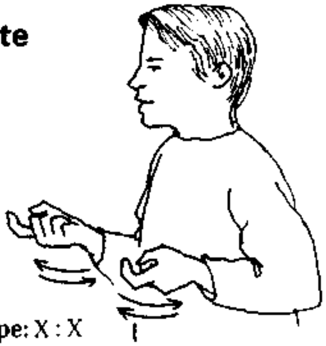
best friend

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up, index fingers clasped
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands sharply forward and down
Nonmanual signal: lips taut; "earnest" expression

expression, grimace

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms out
Location: right hand near temple; left hand near cheek
Movement: move hands alternately up and down
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

ice skate

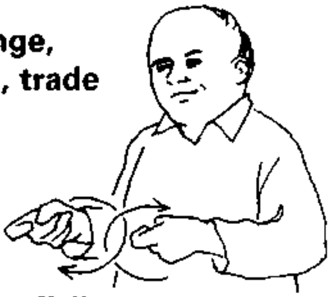


Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide hands side to side twice
Nonmanual signal: body sways

change, adapt, adjust, modify

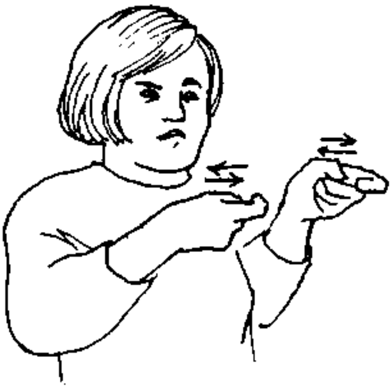
Handshape: X : X
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in; hands crossed at wrists
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands around, reversing palm positions

exchange, switch, trade



Handshape: X : X
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: rotate hands so right hand is closer to body

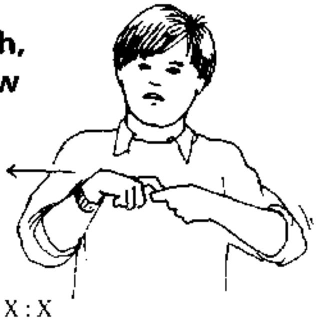
direct, control, discipline, govern, manage, regulate, reign, rule



Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms facing, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands back and forth in alternating motion
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

friend

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up; index fingers clasped
Location: neutral space
Movement: rotate hands to switch palm positions



pull, hitch, hook, tow

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: right palm down; left palm in; index fingers clasped
Location: neutral space
Movement: use right hand to pull left hand to the right

cards, play cards

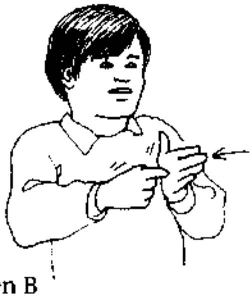
Handshape: X : X
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand off left hand several times while moving hands right

ruin, spoil, torment

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: right palm left, above and in back of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand across left hand, arcing wrist forward and up
Nonmanual signal: “cha” mouth utterance

tease

Handshape: X : X
Orientation: right palm left, above and in back of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right hand across left hand twice
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; “taunting” expression



demand, command, insist, require

Handshape: X : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, index fingertip on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply pull hands in toward body
Nonmanual signal: “insistent” expression

key, lock

Handshape: X : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, index finger knuckle on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist right hand on left palm

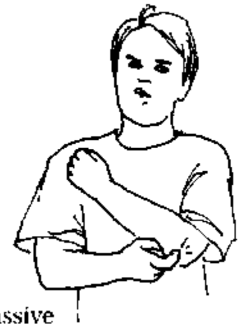
charge, cost, expense, fee, fine, price, tax, toll

Handshape: X : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right index finger down left palm

time (passive)

Handshape: X : S
Orientation: palms down, right index finger above left wrist
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right fingertip on left wrist twice

tempt, temptation (passive)



Handshape: X : passive
Orientation: palms in, right index fingertip on left arm below elbow
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger on left elbow twice

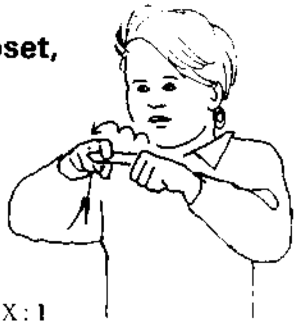
from

Handshape: X : 1
Orientation: right palm left, index finger against left index finger; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull right hand back, away from left index finger

pick on, henpeck, nag

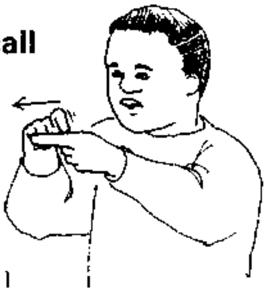
Handshape: X : 1
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: peck right index finger on left index finger twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

hang, closet, hanger



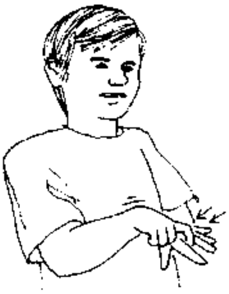
Handshape: X : 1
Orientation: palms down, right index finger crooked over left index finger
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand on left index fingertip several times

telegram, call (by TTY)



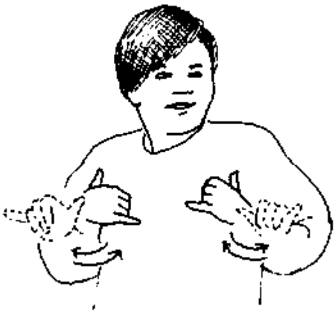
Handshape: X : 1
Orientation: right palm down, index fingertip at base of left index finger; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingertip off left index finger

sandals, thongs



Handshape: X : 5
Orientation: palms down, right index finger between left index and middle fingers
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right index finger forward and back twice

play (v.)



Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrists in and out twice
Nonmanual signal: body bounces

now, presently, today

Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down sharply
Nonmanual signal: "cz" mouth utterance

contrary, antagonistic, bullheaded, cantankerous

Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring heels of hands together twice
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

measure, ruler, size

Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap thumbs together twice

still, yet

Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward, bending wrists up

uniform, in common, same, standard, universal

Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: palms down, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands in a large circle

cow, bull

Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: palms down
Location: thumbs at temples
Movement: bend wrists down and up
Note: See page 113 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

humorous, comical

Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right hand in front of nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: twist wrists up and down twice
Nonmanual signal: smile

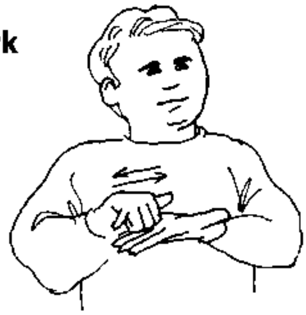
drafting, engineering *(engineer)*

Handshape: Y : Y
Orientation: palms down, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist right hand down twice

that

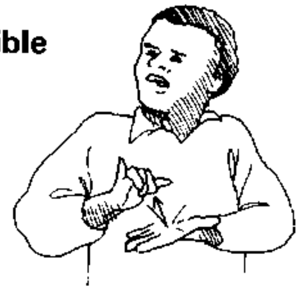
Handshape: Y : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down onto left palm

New York



Handshape: Y : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand back and forth along left palm

impossible



Handshape: Y : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down sharply onto left palm, then bounce hand up
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

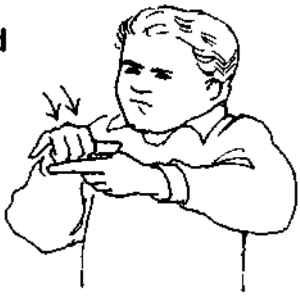
fat (demeaning), obese

Handshape: Y : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: rock right knuckles side to side on left palm
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

country (foreign) (passive)

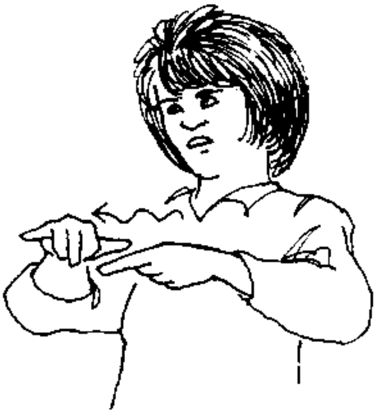
Handshape: Y : passive
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: make a clockwise circle with right hand in front of left elbow

big word



Handshape: Y : 1
Orientation: right palm down; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down so knuckles hit left index finger

swear, curse



Handshape: Y : 1
Orientation: right palm down; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle right hand down and off left index finger
Nonmanual signal: "cha" mouth utterance

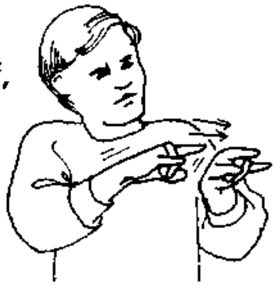
today (compound: now + day)

Handshape: Y > 1 : Y > B
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down, then change right hand to 1 handshape, palm left, and left hand to B handshape, palm down, right elbow on left fingers, bend right arm down onto left arm

I love you (casual)

Handshape: L-I : L-I
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hands slightly side to side
Nonmanual signal: smile

mock, make fun of, ridicule



Handshape: 1-I : 1-I
Orientation: palms down, right hand closer to body, hands angled to left
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hands forward
Nonmanual signal: "smirking" expression

tent, camping

Handshape: 1-I : 1-I
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down at an angle
Note: See page 283 for a variation of this sign.

sarcasm, cynical, ironic

Handshape: 1-I : 1-I
Orientation: palms down
Location: right index finger on tip of nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down to meet left hand, then brush hands past each other
Nonmanual signal: "smirking" expression

liquor, whiskey

Handshape: 1-I : 1-I
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand down on left hand
Note: See page 306 for a variation of this sign.

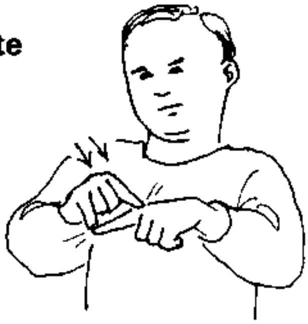
trick, deceive, defraud, fraud

Handshape: 1-I : 1-I
Orientation: palms down, fingertips forward, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand off left hand
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

liquor, whiskey

Handshape: 1-I : S
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce right hand down on left hand
Note: See page 305 for a variation of this sign.

cigarette



Handshape: 1-I : 1
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger and pinky on left index finger twice

sin

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms facing, index fingers angled toward each other
Location: index fingertips at corners of mouth
Movement: arc hands out, then rotate hands, ending with palms in

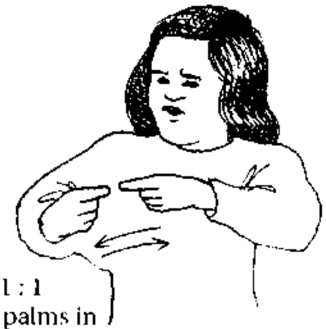
hurt, ache, injure, harm, pain

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands in opposite directions
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; "pained" expression

opposite, contrast, oppose, reverse *(enemy, foe, opponent)*

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands up then out to opposite sides

struggle

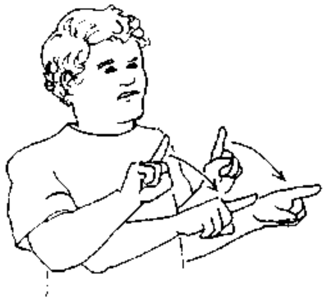


Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands side to side in unison
Nonmanual signal: lips tight; "pained" expression

quake, scared

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands together and apart in short, quick shakes
Nonmanual signal: "frightened" expression

go to, attend

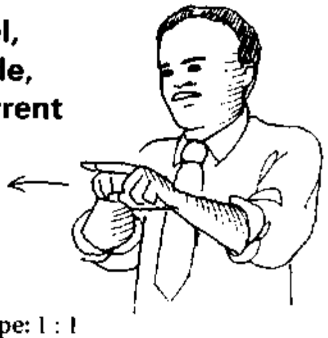


Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms out, right hand slightly behind left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down while moving hands forward

come

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms up, right hand slightly closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands in toward the body while bending wrists in

parallel, coincide, concurrent



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward

during, meantime, meanwhile, while

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, index fingers angled in
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc index fingers down and out while moving hands forward

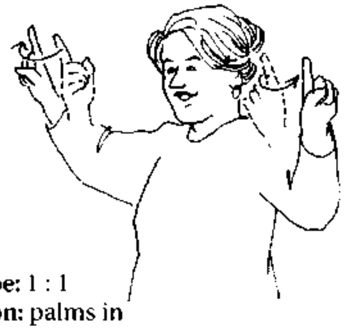
happen, event, incident, occur

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip hands over

accomplish, achieve, prosper, succeed, triumph

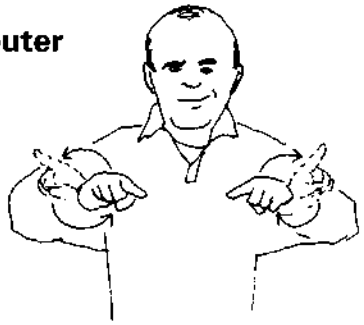
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: index fingers at sides of forehead
Movement: move hands forward in two spiraling motions, ending with palms out
Nonmanual signal: shoulders and head thrust back

finally, pah!



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: sides of head
Movement: twist wrists out in an exaggerated motion, ending with palms out
Nonmanual signal: body and head thrust back; "pah" mouth utterance

computer



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands out in opposite directions

wheelchair

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: outside of thighs
Movement: circle index fingers forward twice

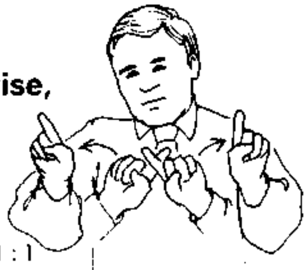
pass by

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms facing, right hand closer to body
Location: near shoulders
Movement: move hands toward and past each other

meet, encounter, face-to-face, one-to-one

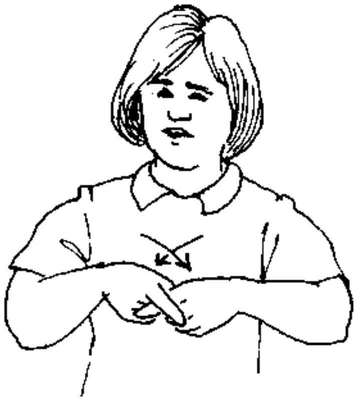
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm out, right hand closer to body; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands toward each other until they meet

but, contrariwise, however



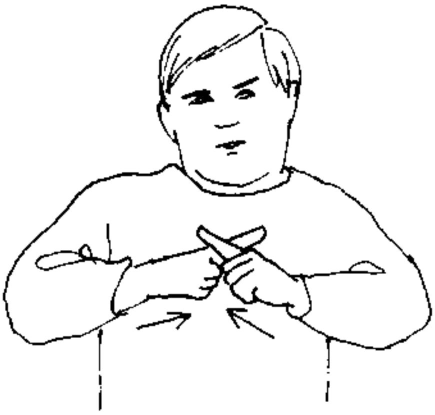
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms out, index fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands out in opposite directions
Nonmanual signal: body and head thrust back; eyes widen

intersect, conflict, cross



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, index fingers angled toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together so that index fingers cross

conflict, clash, cross-purposes



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, index fingers angled up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together sharply until index fingers cross and knuckles clash
Nonmanual signal: brows furrowed; "serious" expression

same, alike, identical, similar (SM); according to, also, too (DM)

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, hands parallel
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together so index fingers touch

as, according to, also

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, hands parallel
Location: right side of neutral space
Movement: bring hands together and tap index fingers together, then move hands to the left and tap index fingers again

since, all along, ever since, so far

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, index fingers angled toward right shoulder
Location: in front of right shoulder
Movement: slowly arc hands out, ending with palms up

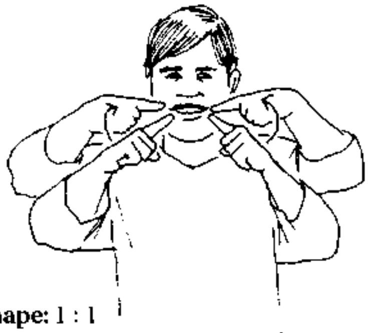
corn on the cob

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down
Location: in front of mouth
Movement: move hands left and right in unison

China, Chinese, Oriental

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: corners of eyes
Movement: rotate fingertips back and forth
Note: See page 126 for the preferred sign.

smile

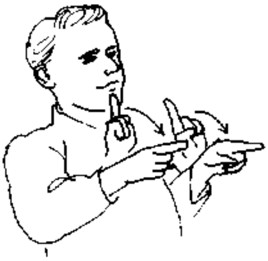


Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms facing, index fingers angled up
Location: corners of mouth
Movement: slide index fingers up cheeks
Nonmanual signal: smile

laugh, laughter

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, index fingers angled toward each other
Location: corners of mouth
Movement: brush index fingers off cheeks twice
Nonmanual signal: mimic laughter

answer, comment, order, reply, respond



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms out
Location: back of right index finger on lips; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bend wrists forward, ending with palms down
Nonmanual signal: body jerks forward slightly

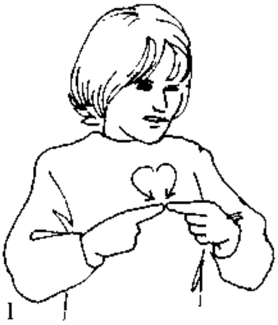
announce, declare, proclaim

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, index fingers angled toward each other
Location: corners of mouth
Movement: swing hands out to opposite sides, ending with palms out
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts back

famous, fame, popular, renown

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, index fingers angled toward each other
Location: corners of mouth
Movement: move hands out and spiral forward
Nonmanual signal: shoulders and head thrust back

heart (romantic)



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, index fingertips touching
Location: left side of chest
Movement: outline the shape of a heart with the index fingers

knit

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm left; left palm out, index fingertips crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist wrists forward

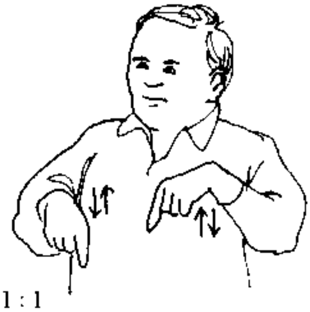
quarrel, argue

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, right index finger up, left index finger down
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake index fingers alternately up and down
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

variety, assorted, different, diverse, etcetera

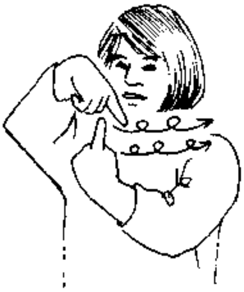
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, right hand higher than left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands out to the sides while alternately bending wrists up and down
Nonmanual signal: body jerks slightly

crippled, lame



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands alternately up and down
Nonmanual signal: left shoulder dips twice

tornado



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: right side of body
Movement: rapidly spiral index fingers around one another while moving hands left
Nonmanual signal: lips blow out air

travel, journey, roam, trip, wander

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: spiral index fingers around each other while moving hands forward
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

stars, astrology

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms out, right index finger against base of left thumb
Location: neutral space
Movement: alternately brush one index finger up and off the other
Nonmanual signal: gaze upward

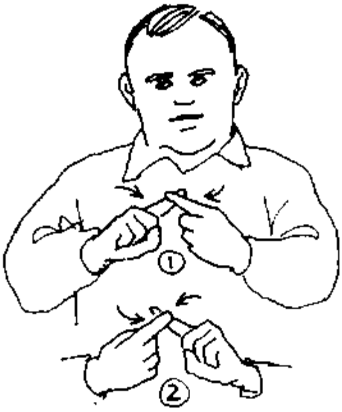
sign language, signs

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands in alternating circles toward the body

stockings, socks

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide index fingers alternately back and forth against each other

relatives



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm out, right hand slightly higher than left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring index fingers together until tips touch, then rotate hands to switch positions

consider, contemplate, ponder, reckon, speculate, wonder

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in, index fingers angled up
Location: near temples
Movement: move hands in small, alternating, circles
Nonmanual signal: shoulders raise; head tilts right; "pensive" expression
Note: See page 120 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

cry, bawl, tears, weep

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms in
Location: index fingers below eyes
Movement: brush alternating index fingers down cheeks
Nonmanual signal: "sad" expression

talk, converse with, dialogue

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index fingertip on lips; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move hands in opposition forward and back from mouth
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

allergy

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms facing, right hand slightly higher than left
Location: in front of nose
Movement: pull right hand away from nose sharply
Nonmanual signal: body pulls away from the offending source

when

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm down; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: rotate right finger clockwise around left index finger, ending with index fingers touching
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; eyebrows knit

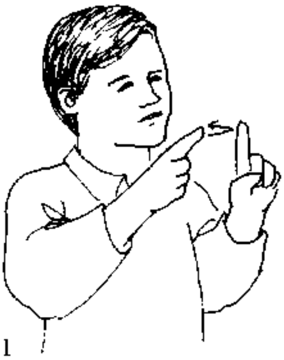
objective, aim, ambition, goal, purpose

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm left; left palm out
Location: right hand at right temple; left hand in front of face
Movement: move right hand to left index finger
Nonmanual signal: head tilts right; eyes on left index finger

until

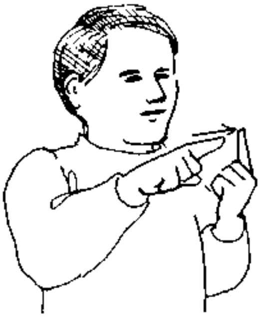
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm out; left palm in
Location: right hand near right shoulder; left hand in neutral space
Movement: arc right hand up then down until fingertips touch

point (n.)



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm left; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger on left index finger twice

to, toward



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm out, right hand closer to body; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand forward to meet left index finger

specific

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm in, right hand closer to body; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply hit left index fingertip with right index fingertip
Nonmanual signal: lips tight; "strained" expression; right shoulder raised

digress, distracted, off the subject

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand toward left index finger, then bounce right index finger off left index finger, detouring to the left
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; "annoyed" expression

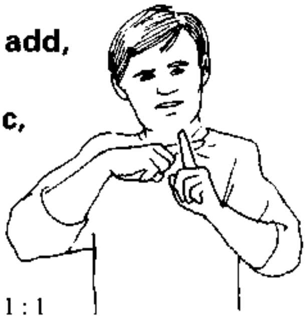
stray, deviate, divert

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right index finger off to the left

turn back, go back, return, turn around

Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right index finger counterclockwise around left hand

positive, add, addition, optimistic, plus

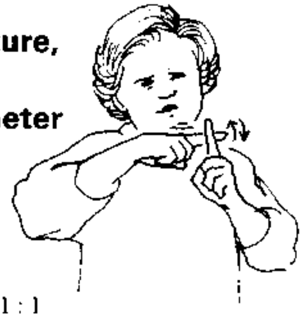


Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm down; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right index finger on middle of left index finger

month (SM), monthly (DM)

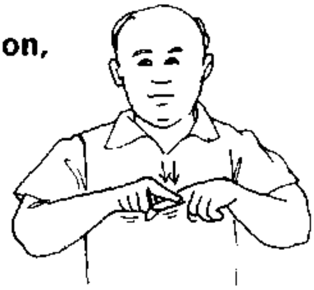
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right index finger down edge of left index finger

temperature, fever, thermometer



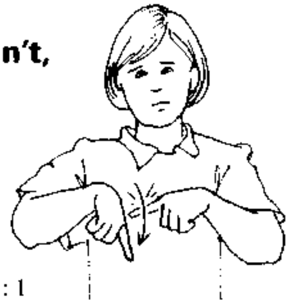
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm down; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right index finger up and down edge of left index finger

depend on, rely



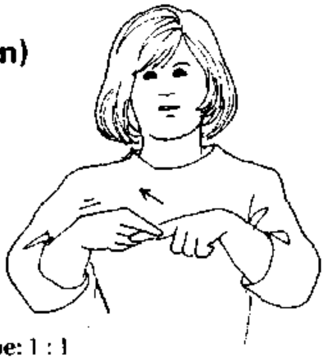
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, index fingers crossed
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce index fingers down twice

cannot, can't, unable



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: palms down, index fingers perpendicular, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right index finger down, hitting left index finger
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

cut (skin)

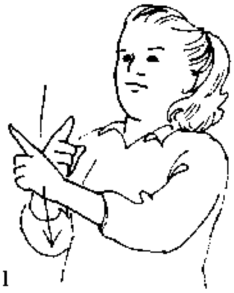


Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right index finger across left index finger

correct, accurate, decent, exact, proper, right

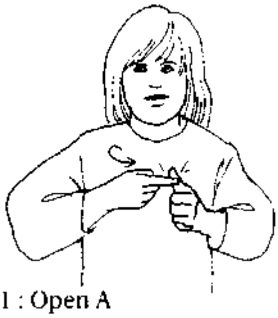
Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm left, right hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down, landing on left hand

consistent, faithful, regular



Handshape: 1 : 1
Orientation: right palm left, right hand on left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands down in an exaggerated motion
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

first

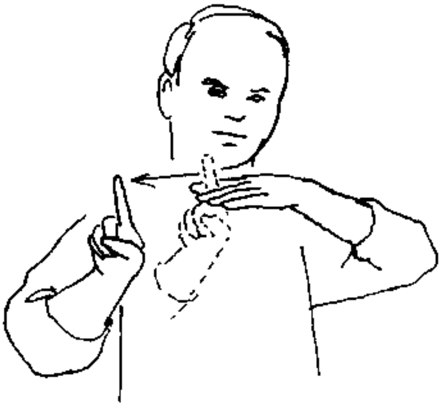


Handshape: 1 : Open A
Orientation: right palm left, index finger forward; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right index finger around to hit left thumb

begin, commence, initiate, originate, start

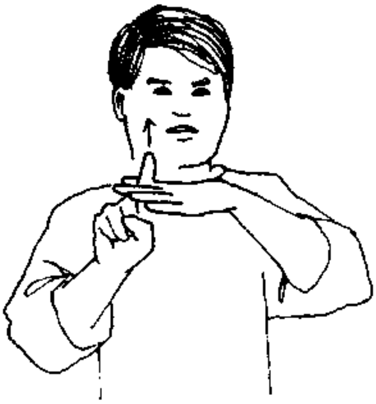
Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, index finger between left index and middle fingers; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist right index finger forward

escape, flee, get away, runaway



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, index finger between left index and middle fingers; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply slide right index finger out of left hand
Nonmanual signal: "poo" mouth utterance

appear, pop up, show up



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, right hand below left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: lift right index finger up between left index and middle fingers
Nonmanual signal: body and head thrust back; "surprised" expression

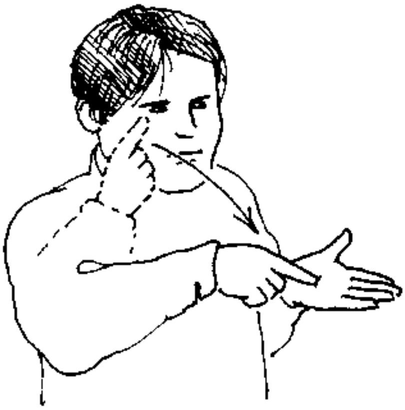
disappear

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, index finger between left index and middle fingers; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right index finger down and away from left hand
Nonmanual signal: "surprised" expression

kill, murder

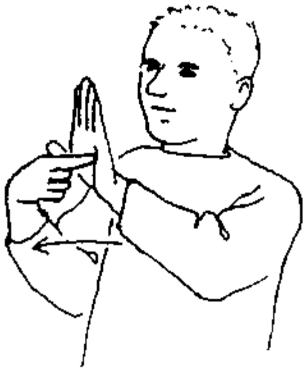
Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: pass right hand under left hand, sharply brushing against left palm while moving forward
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

notice, observe, recognize



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up
Location: right index finger on right eye; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, ending with right index finger on left palm
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; body and head lean back

show, demonstrate, display, exhibit (v.), illustrate, indicate, represent, signify (SM); demonstration, exhibit (n.), example (DM)



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, index finger on left palm; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: push both hands forward

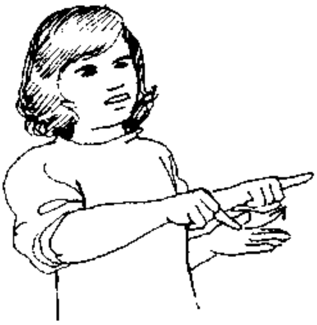
this

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, right hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right index finger down to stab center of left palm

owe, afford, debt, due

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, right hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right index finger down and sharply poke left palm twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

pay

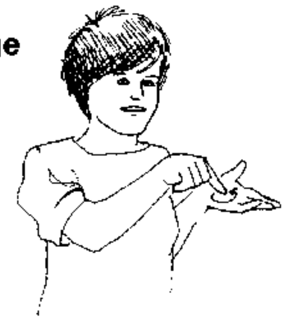


Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right index finger down and off left palm

check (SM); inspect, examine, investigate, research (DM)

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: in front of shoulders
Movement: slide right index finger off left fingertips
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "inquiring" expression

coin, change



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: draw a small circle on left palm with right index finger

week (SM); weekly (DM)

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: place right hand on heel of left palm, then slide right hand down to left fingertips

discuss

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, index finger above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right index finger down and tap left palm twice

debate

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, index finger above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right index finger down and tap left palm, then reverse handshapes and repeat or run down hand

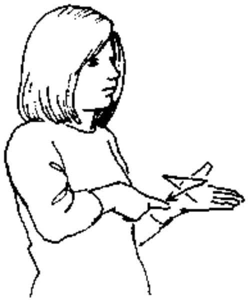
last week, one week ago

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on heel of left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand off left fingertips, then arc hand back toward right shoulder
Nonmanual signal: head and right shoulder tilt toward each other; "cz" mouth utterance

next week

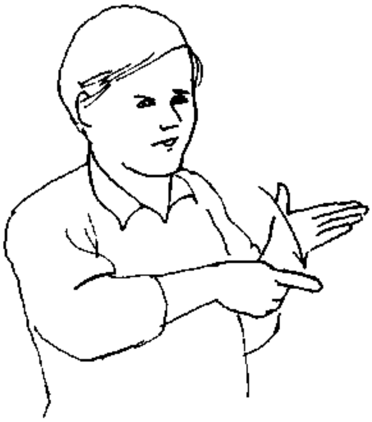
Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand on heel of left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand off left fingertips, then arc hand forward

cancel, correct, criticize, find fault



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, index finger above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: draw a large X on left palm with right index finger

what



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right index finger down left palm
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; eyebrows knit

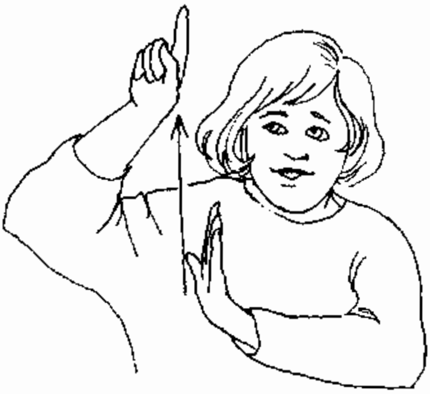
once (SM); sometimes (DM)

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, index finger on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right index finger up and off left palm

occasionally, once in a while

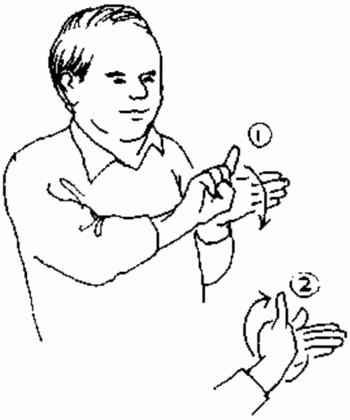
Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, index finger on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right index finger up and off left palm twice in a slow, elliptical motion

tall, height



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, right hand below left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right index finger up and off left palm
Nonmanual signal: eyes gaze upward

hour



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, edge of hand against left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: rotate right index finger around left palm, ending with palm in

half hour

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, edge of hand against left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right wrist down, ending with index finger down

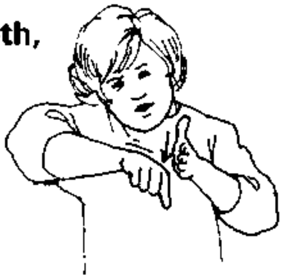
minute, moment

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm out, edge of hand against left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right index finger forward slightly
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder lifts up; head tilts right, "cz" mouth utterance

alarm

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm angled out; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply smack right hand against left palm several times
Nonmanual signal: "alarmed" expression

deep, depth, detail



Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, edge of index finger on left palm; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right index finger across left palm and down

minus, negative

Handshape: 1 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand in front of left palm; left palm out
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply smack right index finger against left palm

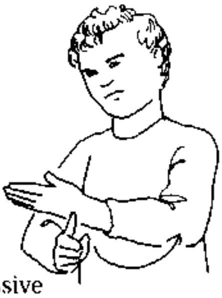
day (passive)

Handshape: 1 : passive
Orientation: right palm in, index finger up, elbow on left fingertips; left palm down, arm across body
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right arm down onto left arm

length, long (passive)

Handshape: 1 : passive
Orientation: palms down, right index finger on back of left wrist, left arm extended forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right index finger along left forearm toward elbow

pail, bucket (passive)



Handshape: 1 : passive
Orientation: right palm left, index finger touching underside of left wrist; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right index finger along left arm, ending at left elbow

Episcopal (passive)

Handshape: 1 : passive
Orientation: right palm left, index finger on left wrist; left palm down, arm across body
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right index finger out and around to left elbow

swallow

Handshape: 1 : C
Orientation: right palm left; left palm in
Location: right index finger under chin; left hand in front of neck
Movement: slide right index fingertip down neck
Note: See page 125 for a variation of this sign.

then, either, or

Handshape: 1 : L
Orientation: right palm in, index finger on left thumb; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right index finger from left thumb to left index finger

about, concerning

Handshape: 1 : Flattened O
Orientation: right palm in; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right index finger around left fingertips

tomato

Handshape: 1 : S
Orientation: right palm in, index finger up; left palm down
Location: right index finger in front of lips; left hand in neutral space
Movement: brush right index finger down lips, then turn palm out and brush down edge of left hand

penalty, punish (passive)

Handshape: 1 : passive
Orientation: right palm down, index finger in front of left elbow; left palm down, arm across body
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply brush right index finger down left elbow
Nonmanual signal: lips tight

might, power (passive)

Handshape: 1 : passive
Orientation: right palm down; left palm in
Location: right index fingertip on left shoulder; left hand in neutral space
Movement: arc right index finger down to crook of left arm
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

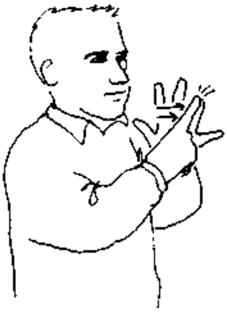
second, secondly

Handshape: 1 : V
Orientation: right palm out, index finger above left middle finger; left palm angled right
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger on left middle finger

preparatory (year)

Handshape: 1 : 5
Orientation: right palm left, index finger near left pinky; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap left pinky twice with right index finger

freshman



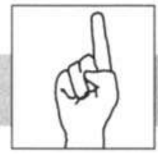
Handshape: 1 : 5
Orientation: right palm left, index finger near left ring finger; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger on left ring finger twice

sophomore

Handshape: 1 : 5
Orientation: right palm left, index finger near left middle finger; left palm angled up
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger on left middle finger twice

junior

Handshape: 1 : 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right index finger on left index finger twice



among, amid

Handshape: 1 : 5
Orientation: right palm down, index finger above left index finger; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: weave right index finger between left fingers, ending at left pinky

review

Handshape: 1 : 5
Orientation: right palm in, index finger on left pinky; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc right index finger backward across left fingertips, ending at left thumb

insult

Handshape: 1 : 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right hand in front of right shoulder; left hand in front of left shoulder
Movement: propel right index finger through left index and middle fingers
Nonmanual signal: tongue protrudes

skip class, absent, cut class

Handshape: 1 : Open 8
Orientation: right palm down, index finger above left middle finger; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right index finger sharply past left middle finger
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed
Note: See page 364 for a variation of this sign.

complex, complicated

Handshape: 1 > X : 1 > X
Orientation: palms facing, right hand behind left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands toward opposite shoulders while bending index fingers several times
Nonmanual signal: "serious" expression

ugly, homely

Handshape: 1 > X : 1 >X
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right, wrists crossed
Location: under nose
Movement: move hands apart while bending index fingers to X handshape
Nonmanual signal: "revolted" grimace
Note: See page 127 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

test, exam, quiz

Handshape: 1 > X : 1 > X
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down, changing both index fingers to X handshape

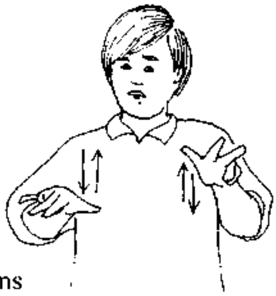
pry, meddle, nosy

Handshape: 1 > X : C
Orientation: right palm in; left palm angled in
Location: right index fingertip on nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right index finger down to left palm, changing to X handshape

walk

Handshape: 3 : 3
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing hands alternately forward and back

awkward, clumsy



Handshape: 3 : 3
Orientation: palms down, right hand lower than left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands alternately up and down
Nonmanual signal: body shifts awkwardly; bite tongue

garage

Handshape: 3 : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand close to body; left palm down, fingers angled right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand under left hand

park (vehicle)

Handshape: 3 : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down, landing on left palm

ship

Handshape: 3 : Open B
Orientation: right palm left, hand on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: gently bounce hands forward

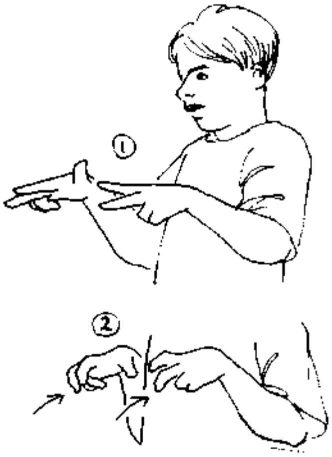
cheat

Handshape: 3 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm down, hands parallel
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand left, catching left fingers between right index and middle fingers twice

accident (car), collide, collision

Handshape: 3 > Open A : 3 > Open A
Orientation: palms in, fingertips pointing toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands toward each other, closing hands, until they collide
Nonmanual signal: lips tight

greedy, selfish, stingy

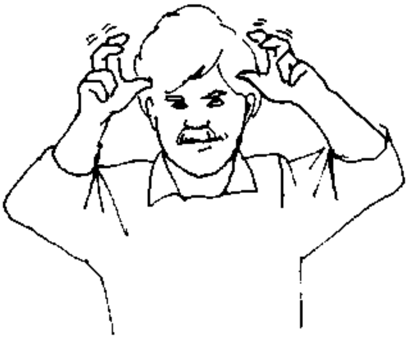


Handshape: 3 > Bent 3 : 3 > Bent 3
Orientation: palms down, hands parallel
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull hands back in a sharp, quick motion while bending index and middle fingers
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

mischievous, devilish

Handshape: 3 > Bent 3 : 3 > Bent 3
Orientation: palms out
Location: near temples
Movement: circle hands toward head, brushing thumbs down temples and bending index and middle fingers
Nonmanual signal: "mischievous" expression

devil, demon, Satan



Handshape: 3 > Bent 3 : 3 > Bent 3
Orientation: palms out
Location: thumbs on temples
Movement: bend index and middle fingers down twice
Nonmanual signal: "mischievous" expression
Note: See page 134 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

ticket

Handshape: Bent 3 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in; left palm up, hands parallel
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand left, sandwiching edge of left hand between right index and middle fingers

champion

Handshape: Bent 3 : 1
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left index finger; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right palm off left index finger
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; erect posture

war, battle

Handshape: 4 : 4
Orientation: palms down, fingertips facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands left and right in unison

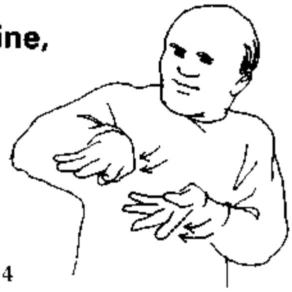
curtains, drapes

Handshape: 4 : 4
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down and slightly apart

Chanukah, Hanukkah

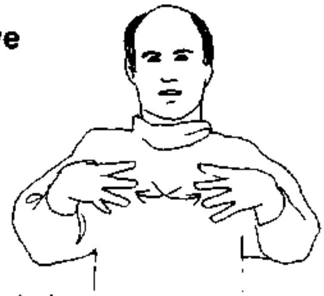
Handshape: 4 : 4
Orientation: palms out, index fingers touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands down and out to sides

assembly line, mass production



Handshape: 4 : 4
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide hands to the left in short quick motions
Nonmanual signal: "mm" mouth utterance

net, sieve



Handshape: 4 : 4
Orientation: palms in, back of right fingers against left fingers
Location: neutral space
Movement: hands slowly arc down and out to opposite sides

line, form a line, line up

Handshape: 4 : 4
Orientation: right palm left, pinky almost touching left index finger; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand back toward right shoulder

jail, cage, prison

Handshape: 4 : 4
Orientation: palms in, fingers angled toward each other, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack back of right hand into left palm

well! so!

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: arc hands down, ending with palms up
Nonmanual signal: body jerks forward; head tilts back; eyes widen

what?

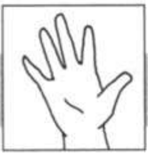
Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hands back and forth toward center
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head tilts right; eyebrows knit

catch
(catcher)

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms up, right hand in front of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together while moving in toward body
Nonmanual signal: lips tight; "strained" expression

chat

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm angled left; left palm angled right
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hands down at an angle twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; body and head lean back



abandon, desert (v.), forsake, leave, leftover

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing, fingers up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down, ending with fingers pointing forward

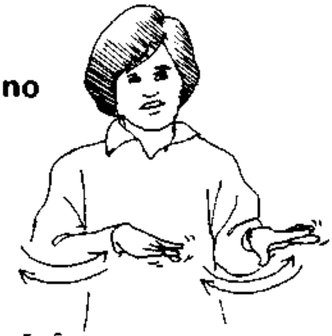
wind, breeze, storm

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: sway hands side to side
Nonmanual signal: mouth blows out air

party (v.), good time

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing, right hand higher than left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hands exaggeratedly out to opposite sides twice
Nonmanual signal: body sways; smile

piano, play piano



Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle fingers as hands move side to side in unison

excellent, fantastic, grand, marvelous, splendid, wonderful

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms out
Location: above shoulders
Movement: double bounce hands forward
Nonmanual signal: smile

friendly, amiable, cheerful, pleasant

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: in front of cheeks
Movement: wiggle fingers as hands move back toward ears
Nonmanual signal: smile

cool, air, fresh

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: in front of shoulders
Movement: bend wrists slightly to fan face twice
Nonmanual signal: mouth blows out air; body and head lean back

sad, dejected, frown

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in, right hand higher than left hand
Location: in front of face
Movement: bring hands down in a sharp, slight motion
Nonmanual signal: "sad" expression; head lowered

embarrass, blush, flush

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing, fingers up
Location: in front of cheeks
Movement: move hands up cheeks slowly
Nonmanual signal: head and eyes lowered; "embarrassed" expression

traffic, bumper-to-bumper, gridlock

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms down, fingertips forward, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: double bounce hands forward with exaggerated motion
Nonmanual signal: "weary" expression

parade, march, procession

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in, fingers pointing down, right hand in back of left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands forward in a marching motion

snow

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: above shoulders
Movement: wiggle fingers as hands slowly move down

fire, arson, burn

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms toward body, fingers up
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle fingers as hands move up
Nonmanual signal: shoulders raised

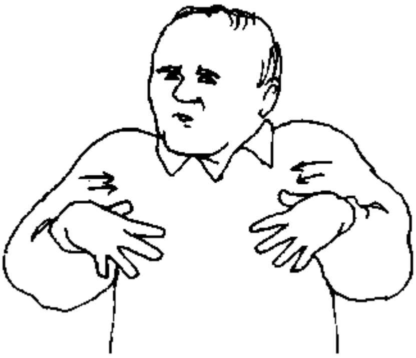
wait

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms angled up, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle fingers

nervous, anxious

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake hands while moving them down
Nonmanual signal: "nervous" expression

fear, afraid, dread, frightened, scared, terror



Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in, fingertips facing
Location: in front of chest
Movement: move hands toward each other twice
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; "frightened" expression

finish, already, done, end, over, then

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: flip wrists out to sides, ending with palms out

flirt

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms angled out
Location: in front of face
Movement: flutter fingers
Nonmanual signal: head tilts; "coy" expression

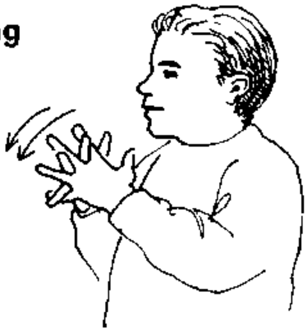
merge, mainstream

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms angled in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands toward each other, then forward, ending with right hand on top of left hand and fingers forward

America

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms angled in, fingers meshed
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands clockwise

wrestling



Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing, fingers meshed
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down slightly twice

football

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands toward each other, interlocking fingers twice

pregnant, conceive

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing, fingers forward
Location: in front of abdomen
Movement: bring hands together, ending with fingers interlocking

Germany, German

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in, right hand at base of left thumb
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle fingers
Note: See page 122 for the preferred sign.

moose

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms out
Location: thumbs on temples
Movement: move hands out and up

deer, antlers, elk

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms out
Location: thumbs near temples
Movement: tap thumbs on temples twice

father (honorific)

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right thumb at temple; left hand in neutral space
Movement: arc hands up to the right

mother (honorific)

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right thumb on chin; left hand in neutral space
Movement: arc hands up to the right

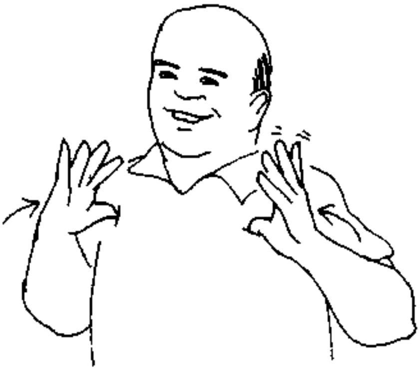
vomit, detest, loathe

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right thumb on lip; left hand below right hand
Movement: sharply thrust hands out and down to the right
Nonmanual signal: tongue sticks out; head tilts away from offender

dress (v.), wear (SM); clothes, dress (n.), garment, gown (DM)

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: thumbs on chest
Movement: brush thumbs down chest

retired, idle



Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips up
Location: in front of shoulders
Movement: rest thumbs on shoulders while wiggling fingers
Nonmanual signal: body leans back; lips pursed

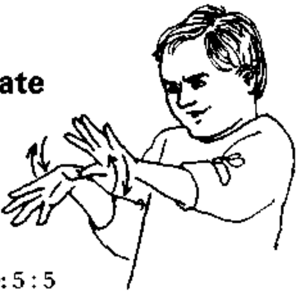
retired, idle (SM); holiday, leisure, retirement, vacation (DM)

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing, fingers up
Location: in front of shoulders
Movement: bring hands back so thumbs hit chest
Nonmanual signal: smile

Russia, Russian

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: thumbs at sides of waist
Movement: tap thumbs on waist twice

flatter, manipulate



Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms out, thumbs touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists alternately down and up
Nonmanual signal: head tilts; "devious" expression

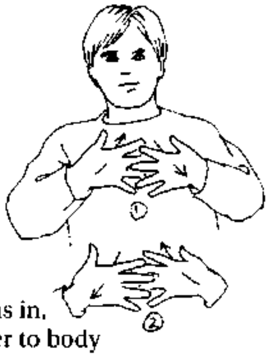
traffic

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush fingers against each other as hands move alternately forward and back

crowded

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms facing and touching, fingers up
Location: in front of face
Movement: press hands together and rub palms back and forth
Nonmanual signal: shoulders raised; "disgusted" expression

gray, grey



Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in, right hand closer to body
Location: neutral space
Movement: pass fingers through each other as hands alternately move forward and back

senior

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left thumb; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right palm on left thumb twice

blood

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: right index finger on lips; left hand in neutral space
Movement: wiggle right fingers while moving right hand down back of left fingers

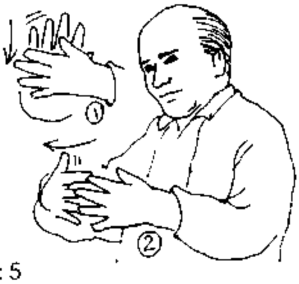
film, motion picture, movie

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm out, heel on heel of left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand back and forth on left palm several times

blurry, obscure, unclear, vague

Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm out, palm on left palm; left palm in
Location: in front of face
Movement: rub right palm back and forth on left palm
Nonmanual signal: shoulders raised; tongue protruding

schedule



Handshape: 5 : 5
Orientation: right palm out, hand above left palm; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right fingertips down left palm, then flip right hand over and brush across left fingers

study

Handshape: 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle right fingers
Nonmanual signal: lips taut; "earnest" expression

glory, glorious

Handshape: 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle right fingers as hand moves up
Nonmanual signal: smile

country (passive)

Handshape: 5 : passive
Orientation: palms in, right hand in front of left elbow, left arm across body
Location: neutral space
Movement: rub right palm counterclockwise on left elbow

tree (SM); forest (passive) (DM)

Handshape: 5 : passive
Orientation: right palm left, elbow on back of left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake right hand back and forth

enough, adequate, abundant, ample, plenty, sufficient

Handshape: 5 : S
Orientation: right palm down, hand on top of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right palm forward and off left hand
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; cheeks puffed

pressure, oppress, stress

Handshape: 5 : S
Orientation: right palm down, on top of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: press right hand down on left hand twice
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; head lowers; "stressed" expression
Note: See page 198 for the verb form.

mainstream (negative meaning)

Handshape: 5 : 1
Orientation: palms down, fingertips facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together, then forward, ending with right hand covering left index finger

helicopter

Handshape: 5 : 3
Orientation: right palm down, hand on left thumb; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake right hand slightly as hands move forward

popular, flock to

Handshape: 5 : 1
Orientation: right palm out; left palm right, index finger up
Location: neutral space
Movement: hit right palm against left index finger twice

candle

Handshape: 5 : 1
Orientation: right palm out; left palm right, index finger on heel of right hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: flicker right fingers

dissolve, decay, fade, melt, rot

Handshape: 5 > A : 5 > A
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush thumbs across fingertips as hands separate, ending with hands closed
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

pants, jeans, slacks, trousers

Handshape: 5 > Bent B : 5 > Bent B
Orientation: palms in, fingertips down
Location: in front of thighs
Movement: bend fingers as hands brush up thighs twice

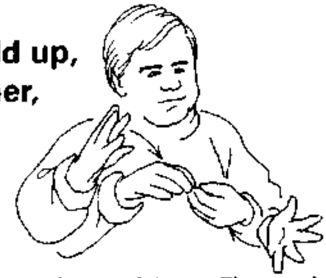
belong, annex, attach, enlist, enroll, join, unite

Handshape: 5 > F : 5 > F
Orientation: right palm out, hand closer to body; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together, linking thumbs and index fingers

damp, humid, moist, wet

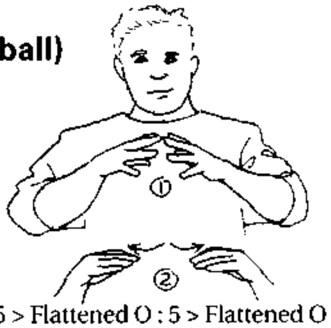
Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palms in
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands down, closing thumb to fingers, twice
Nonmanual signal: "disgusted" expression

total, add up, altogether, sum



Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: right palm angled down, above left hand; left palm angled up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together in an exaggerated motion, closing thumbs to fingers as fingertips touch

football (ball)

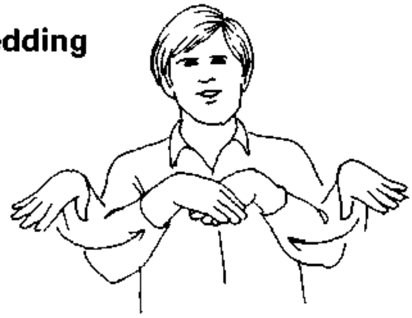


Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands and close thumbs to fingers

meeting, conference, gathering

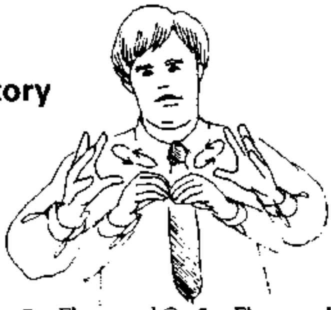
Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palms angled out
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together twice, closing thumbs to fingers as fingertips touch

wedding



Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands up and clasp hands

story, tell a story



Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands twice in toward center, closing thumbs to fingers as fingertips brush past each other

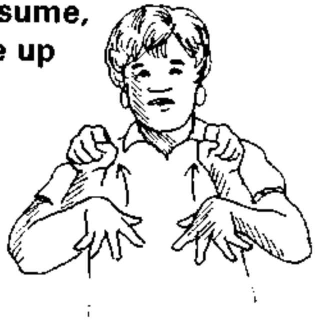
accept

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands in to chest, closing thumbs to fingers
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; “contented” expression

fascinate

Handshape: 5 > S : 5 > S
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index finger on nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move hands down and close hands, ending with right hand on top of left hand
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; eyes widen; tongue protruding

adopt, assume, host, take up

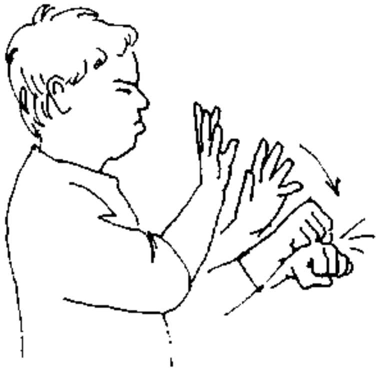


Handshape: 5 > S : 5 > S
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists up and close hands

acquire, get, obtain, procure, receive

Handshape: 5 > S : 5 > S
Orientation: right palm left, hand above left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull hands in, closing hands and ending with right hand on top of left hand

arrest, capture, grab, seize

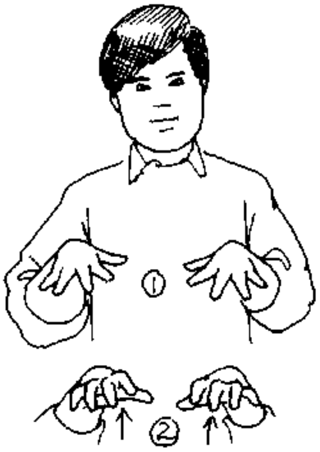


Handshape: 5 > S : 5 > S
Orientation: palms out, right hand above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slowly move hands down as hands close, ending with right hand on top of left hand
Nonmanual signal: "stern" expression

healthy, brave, bravery, courage, well

Handshape: 5 > S : 5 > S
Orientation: palms in
Location: shoulders
Movement: bring hands forward slowly, closing hands
Nonmanual signal: shoulders thrust back; posture erect; lips pursed

freeze, frost, frozen, ice



Handshape: 5 > Bent 5 : 5 > Bent 5
Orientation: palms down, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull hands back sharply while bending fingers
Nonmanual signal: body stiffens

pretend, deceive, fool

Handshape: 5 > A : 1
Orientation: palms out
Location: right index finger on tip of nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand down, changing to A handshape before knuckles hit left index finger
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

learn *(student, pupil)*

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull right hand up to head while closing thumb to fingers
Nonmanual signal: lips taut; "earnest" expression

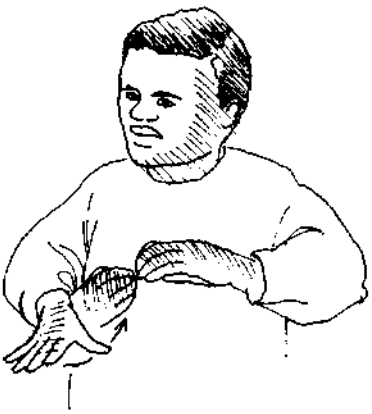
disappear, absent, gone, vanish

Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : C
Orientation: palms in, right wrist inside left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand down and below left palm, closing thumb to fingers
Nonmanual signal: "surprised" expression

include, everything, incorporate, involve, whole

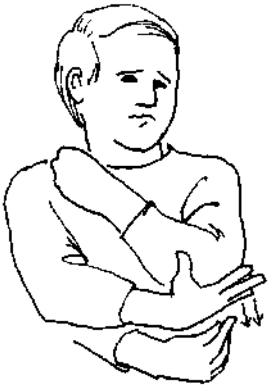
Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : C
Orientation: right palm angled out, fingertips up, hand above left hand; left palm in
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand clockwise, closing thumb to fingers as fingers tuck into left hand
Nonmanual signal: body jerks forward slightly

additionally, amendment, furthermore, in addition to



Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: right palm down, hand below left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: swing right hand up, closing thumb to fingers as fingertips meet

poor



Handshape: 5 > Flattened O : passive
Orientation: right palm up, hand below left elbow; left palm in
Location: right hand at left elbow; left hand in neutral space
Movement: brush right fingers down and off left elbow twice, closing thumb to fingers
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "pained" expression

ball, sphere

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands together until fingertips bounce off each other

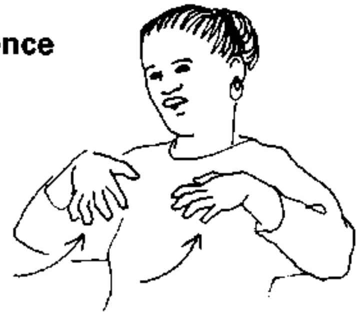
much, a lot

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms facing, fingertips touching
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands in an exaggerated motion
Nonmanual signal: body and head jerk slightly

rain

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: above shoulders
Movement: double bounce hands down

audience

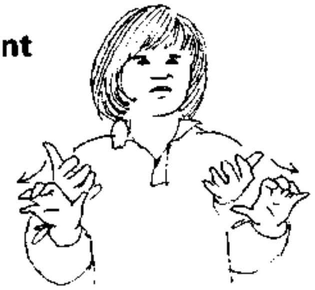


Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands back and up toward body

radio, audiology *(audiologist)*

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: ears
Movement: twist wrists forward and back twice
Note: See page 143 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

don't want



Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply flip hands over, ending with palms down
Nonmanual signal: head shakes "no"

roommate

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms in, fingers facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together and interlock fingers twice

want, desire

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move arms back and forth slightly
Nonmanual signal: "desirous" expression

spider

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms down, right hand on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle fingers while moving hands slowly forward
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered

shock, at a loss, dumbfounded

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms out
Location: right hand on right temple; left hand at left shoulder
Movement: move hands out and down slowly, ending with palms down
Nonmanual signal: mouth open; "shocked" expression

sweat, perspire

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms out, fingers up
Location: knuckles on forehead
Movement: bend wrists down and off forehead, ending with palms down
Nonmanual signal: "uncomfortable" expression

fat, obese

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: cheeks
Movement: move hands out to side with exaggerated motion
Nonmanual signal: cheeks puffed; "cha" mouth utterance

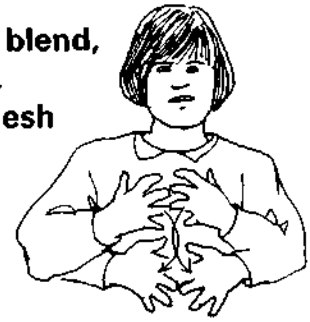
salad

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms up, fingers angled toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands up and toward each other twice

breakdown, cave in, collapse

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms down, fingertips interlocked
Location: neutral space
Movement: collapse wrists down, ending with fingers down
Nonmanual signal: head lowered; "sad" expression

combine, blend, integrate, merge, mesh



Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms in, fingers angled up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists toward each other and down, ending with fingers meshed

fit, match

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms in, left hand closer to body, fingers toward each other
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring hands together and interlock fingers

factory, engine, machine, motor

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms in, fingertips interlocked
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend wrists down and up twice
Nonmanual signal: pursed lips

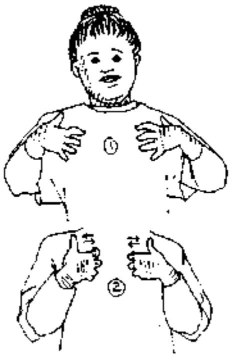
bear, grizzly

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms in, arms crossed
Location: body
Movement: brush fingertips down chest twice

monkey

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: armpits
Movement: brush fingertips lightly up and off body twice

animal

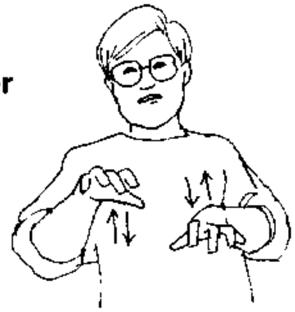


Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms in
Location: fingertips on chest
Movement: bend fingers several times

laugh (hysterically)

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands alternately forward and back several times
Nonmanual signal: laugh; body jerks

type, typewriter

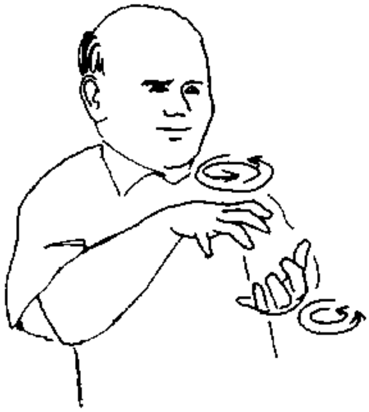


Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle fingers while moving hands alternately up and down

storm, clouds

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left palm; left palm up
Location: in front of head
Movement: spiral hands to the right

mix, complicated, confused, mingle, puzzled, scramble



Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands around each other
Nonmanual signal: "confused" expression

washing machine, wash (clothes)

Handshape: Bent 5 : Bent 5
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: twist hands in opposite directions

crude, rough, rude

Handshape: Bent 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right hand sharply down and off left fingertips
Nonmanual signal: "pained" expression

boil, cook

Handshape: Bent 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm up, hand below left hand; left palm down
Location: neutral space
Movement: wiggle right fingers while moving hand in small circles
Nonmanual signal: "mm" mouth utterance

cookie

Handshape: Bent 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right hand up, twist to the right, and land on left palm, then repeat twisting hand to the left

weak, feeble, frail

Handshape: Bent 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: slowly bend right fingers until knuckles touch left palm twice
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "pained" expression

grapes

Handshape: Bent 5 : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right fingertips on left wrist
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right fingertips down left hand to fingertips

beg, entreat, plea

Handshape: Bent 5 : C
Orientation: palms up, back of right hand in left palm
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right fingers as hand slides down left palm twice
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "pained" expression

darn, drat

Handshape: Bent 5 : O
Orientation: right palm down, thumb down; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: move right hand down sharply, inserting thumb inside left hand
Nonmanual signal: body jerks; "angry" expression

popular

Handshape: Bent 5 : 1
Orientation: right palm out, hand closer to body; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: smack right hand against left index finger twice

soft

Handshape: Bent 5 > Flattened O : Bent 5 > Flattened O
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: gently close hands while moving them down slightly twice
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed

self-control, suppress feelings

Handshape: Bent 5 > S : Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palms up, right hand above left hand
Location: chest
Movement: move hands down in deliberate motion, closing hands
Nonmanual signal: shoulders rounded; head lowered; "pained" expression
Note: See page 145 for a one-hand variation of this sign.

drawer, open drawer

Handshape: Bent 5 > S : Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palms up
Location: neutral space
Movement: pull hands back while closing hands

trust, confidence

Handshape: Bent 5 > S : Bent 5 > S
Orientation: palms up, right hand slightly above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: move hands slightly down and out while closing hands
Nonmanual signal: lips tight

cruel, mean

Handshape: Bent 5 > S : Bent 5 > S
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: right index finger on tip of nose; left hand in neutral space
Movement: bring right hand down and left hand up, closing hands, then brush hands past each other
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

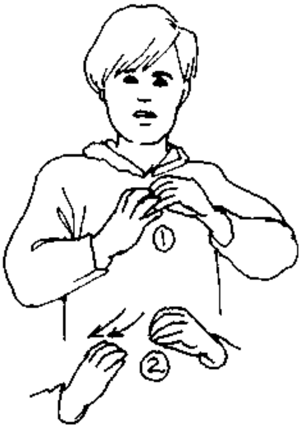
destroy, damage, demolish, devastate

Handshape: Bent 5 > S : Bent 5 > S
Orientation: right palm down, right hand above left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: separate hands then bring back to center while closing hands, then sharply brush hands past each other
Nonmanual signal: body jerks; "angry" expression

greedy, miser, selfish, stingy

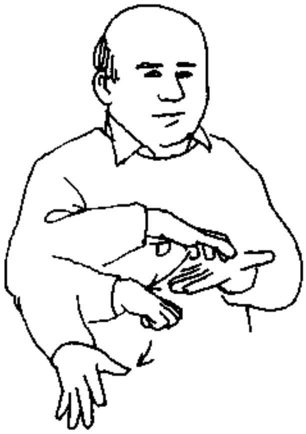
Handshape: Bent 5 > A : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, fingertips on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: close right hand sharply
Nonmanual signal: shoulders raised; “disgusted” expression

pear



Handshape: Bent 5 > Flattened O : Flattened O
Orientation: right palm left, fingers covering left fingers; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right fingers down and off left fingers twice

remove, abolish, discard, subtract, take away



Handshape: Bent 5 > S > 5 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left palm; left hand up
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush back of right fingers down left palm and close hand, then throw hand down, opening fingers

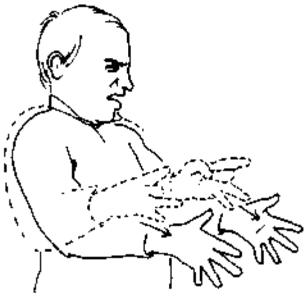
win

Handshape: Bent 5 > S : S
Orientation: right palm left, above and to the right of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: swoop right hand to the left, closing hand and brushing across left hand
Nonmanual signal: smile

awful, disgusting, dreadful, horrible, terrible

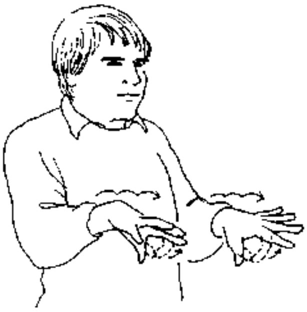
Handshape: 8 > 5 : 8 > 5
Orientation: right palm left; left palm right
Location: temples
Movement: flick middle fingers out as hands move forward
Nonmanual signal: shoulders and head thrust back; "upset" expression

hate, despise, detest



Handshape: 8 > 5 : 8 > 5
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply flick middle fingers out
Nonmanual signal: shoulders and head tilt away; "hateful" expression

Australia, Australian



Handshape: 8 > Open 8 : 8 > Open 8
Orientation: palms down, fingers forward
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce hands forward and flick open middle fingers

melon, pumpkin, watermelon

Handshape: 8 > Open 8 : S
Orientation: palms down, hands crossed, right thumb slightly above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: flick right middle finger open and thump back of left hand

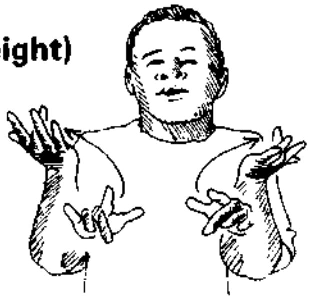
computer

Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms out
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle hands toward each other

contact (a person)

Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: bring middle fingers together and tap twice

light (weight)

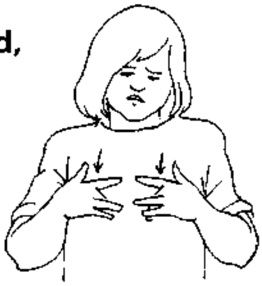


Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms down
Location: neutral space
Movement: slowly swing hands around, ending with palms up
Nonmanual signal: body and shoulders lift

what's up, affair, event, what's new

Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms in
Location: middle fingers on chest
Movement: flick wrists up and out off chest
Nonmanual signal: head tilts back; eyes widen; "mm" mouth utterance

disappointed, depressed, discouraged



Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms in
Location: middle fingers on chest
Movement: slide middle fingers down chest
Nonmanual signal: head lowered; "sad" expression

sick, ill

Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms in
Location: right hand in front of head; left hand in front of stomach
Movement: bring hands in sharply toward body
Nonmanual signal: "sickly" expression

disease, illness

Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms in
Location: right hand in front of head; left hand in front of chest
Movement: move hands in small circles
Nonmanual signal: lips pursed; "sad" expression

tend, inclined

Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: middle fingers on left side of chest
Movement: move hands forward with an exaggerated motion
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; "pah" mouth utterance

cut class, absent, miss class

Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms down, right middle finger above left middle finger
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right middle finger past left middle finger
Note: See page 329 for a variation of this sign.

excited

Handshape: Open 8 : Open 8
Orientation: palms in
Location: in front of chest
Movement: brush middle fingers alternately up and off chest
Nonmanual signal: eyes widen; "excited" expression

shiny, bright, glisten

Handshape: Open 8 : Open B
Orientation: palms down, hands crossed, right middle finger on left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: shake right hand as it moves up
Nonmanual signal: eyes widen

touch, been there

Handshape: Open 8 : Open B
Orientation: palms down, right middle finger above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: bounce right middle finger off back of left hand

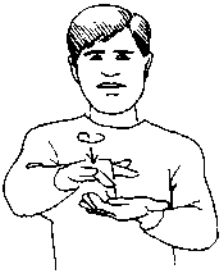
take advantage, rip off

Handshape: Open 8 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, middle finger above left palm; left palm angled up
Location: neutral space
Movement: sharply brush right middle finger off left palm, ending with middle finger bent
Nonmanual signal: "angry" expression

medicine

Handshape: Open 8 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, middle finger on left palm; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: bend right hand side to side

center, middle, intermediate



Handshape: Open 8 : Open B
Orientation: right palm down, hand above left hand; left palm up
Location: neutral space
Movement: circle right hand above left hand, then drop right middle finger down in the center of left palm

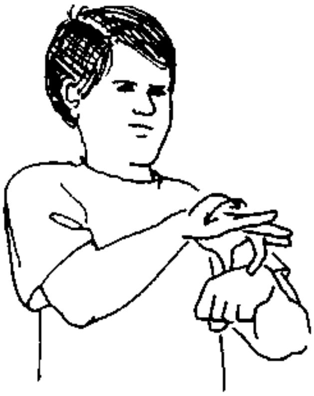
technology *(technician)*

Handshape: Open 8 : Open B
Orientation: right palm in, hand below left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right middle finger on edge of left hand twice

early

Handshape: Open 8 : S
Orientation: palms down, hands crossed, right middle finger above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right middle finger across back of left hand
Nonmanual signal: right shoulder raised

earth

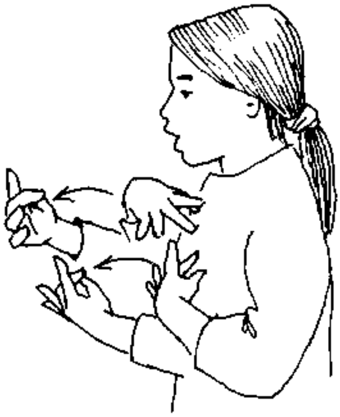


Handshape: Open 8 : S
Orientation: palms down, hands crossed, right middle finger and thumb grip left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: rock right hand side to side

bare, bald, blank, empty, naked, nude, vacant, void

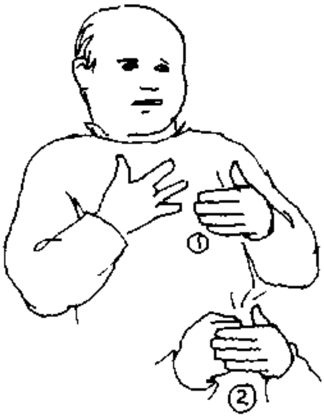
Handshape: Open 8 : S
Orientation: palms down, knuckles forward, right middle finger above left hand
Location: neutral space
Movement: slide right middle finger down back of left hand
Nonmanual signal: raise right shoulder

interesting



Handshape: Open 8 > 8 : Open 8 > 8
Orientation: palms in, right hand above left hand
Location: middle fingers and thumbs on chest
Movement: move hands forward with an exaggerated motion, closing thumbs and middle fingers
Nonmanual signal: body leans forward; eyes widen; mouth open

heart attack



Handshape: Open 8 > S : Open B
Orientation: palms in
Location: right middle finger on left side of chest; left hand in neutral space
Movement: move right hand out, closing hand, and smack hand into left palm
Nonmanual signal: body rigid when fist hits

grease, fat, gravy, greasy, oil

Handshape: Open 8 > 8 : Open B
Orientation: right palm up, thumb and middle finger gripping edge of left hand; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: brush right thumb and middle finger down and off edge of left hand twice
Nonmanual signal: "disgusted" expression

soda pop

Handshape: Open 8 > 5 : S
Orientation: right palm down, middle finger inside left index finger; left palm right
Location: neutral space
Movement: lift right hand up, opening hand, then smack down on top of left hand

Jesus

Handshape: Open 8 > 5 : 5 > Open 8
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right middle finger on left palm, then tap left middle finger on right palm

Bible (Christian)
(compound: Jesus + book)

Handshape: Open 8 > 5 > Open B : Open 8 > 5 > Open B
Orientation: palms facing
Location: neutral space
Movement: tap right middle finger on left palm, then tap left middle finger on right palm; change to Open B handshape, palms facing and touching, and open hands out

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Index of English Glosses

Each gloss is followed by the initial handshape(s) of its corresponding sign and then by the page number where it appears. When the same gloss appears two or more times, the glosses are listed in the morphologic order of their handshapes; when the handshapes are the same, one-hand signs are listed before two-hand signs. Glosses that need an agent marker are indicated in italics.

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